

THE  
ARCHITECT  
& BUILDING NEWS

18 FEBRUARY 1954

VOL. 205

No. 7

ONE SHILLING WEEKLY

● HOUSING IN PADDINGTON

● PRIVATE CINEMA FOR SHELL-MEX AND  
B.P. LTD.

FROM THE SNOWCEM FILE:—

Electroflo Meter Company's  
factory, Park Royal, N.W.10



Contractors: Perrott Grenville Limited

This modern factory on London's north-western approaches dominates the surroundings with its stretches of glass and concrete—concrete painted with Snowcem to give the building the appearance of a vast sun trap. As there was still a trace of camouflage paint remaining on the surface of the building, Cemprover No. 1 was used in conjunction with Cream Snowcem.

**SNOWCEM** is easily applied to concrete, cement rendering or suitable brickwork by brush or spray. Available in seven colours: White, Cream, Deep Cream, Buff, Pink, Silver Grey and Pale Green.

**CEMPROVER No. 1** is a liquid for use in conjunction with Snowcem, enabling it to be applied, under certain conditions, to some surfaces not suitable for the direct application of Snowcem.

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*Decorates and protects at LOW cost*

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THE SOUTH WALES PORTLAND CEMENT & LIME Co. Ltd.,  
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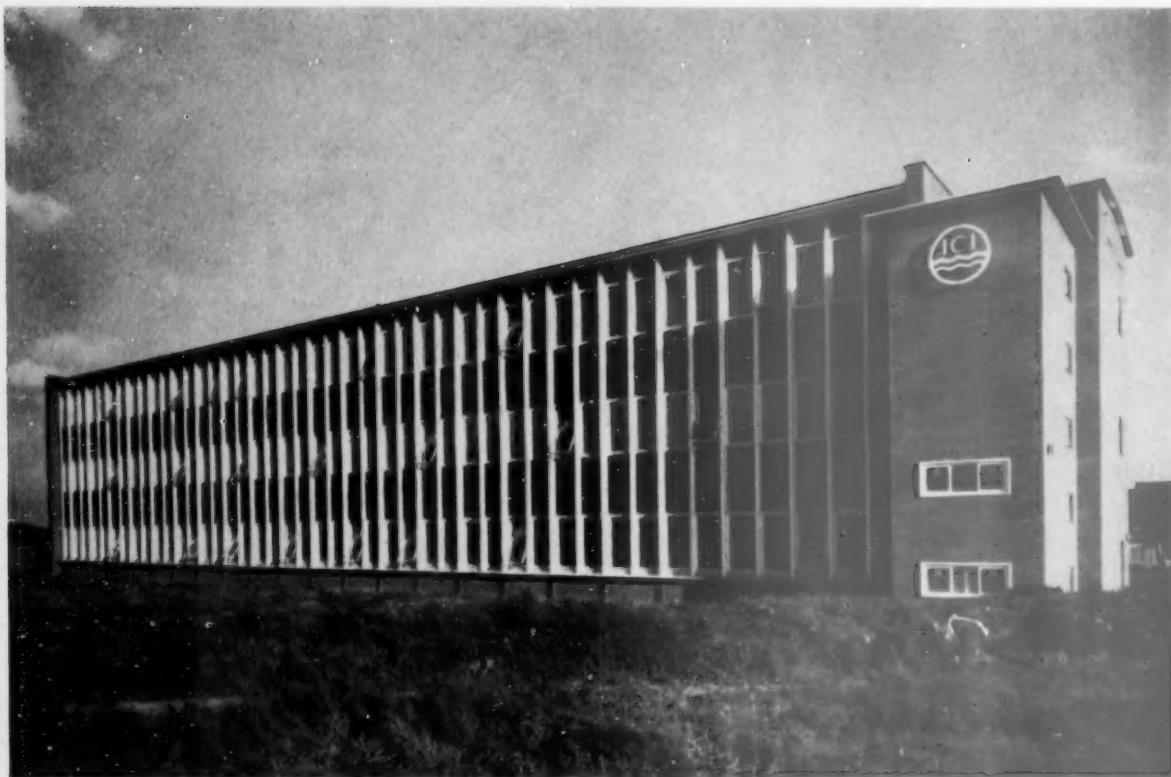
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*General Contractors: Holland & Hannen and Cubitts Ltd.*

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Tradition plus—



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Laboratory Benches

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# KINNEAR SHUTTERS



Architects : Messrs. Skipper & Partners, Norwich.

Contractors : Messrs. Westgates (Norwich) Ltd.

Messrs. Cox Clothing Co. Ltd., Norwich.

Stores in Ashby Street, Southwell Road, fitted with Kinnear Shutter.

Above illustrations show a Shutter fitted within the opening : i.e., between jambs and under lintol, and therefore encroaching on the opening by the width of guides and depth of coil. Operation of Shutter is by means of endless chain and gearing as shown on right-hand side of interior view.

The oldest interlocking slat Shutters  
still working in this Country are  
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There are several installations now  
over 50 years old

Sole Manufacturers :

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TO B.S. 1386



M.303

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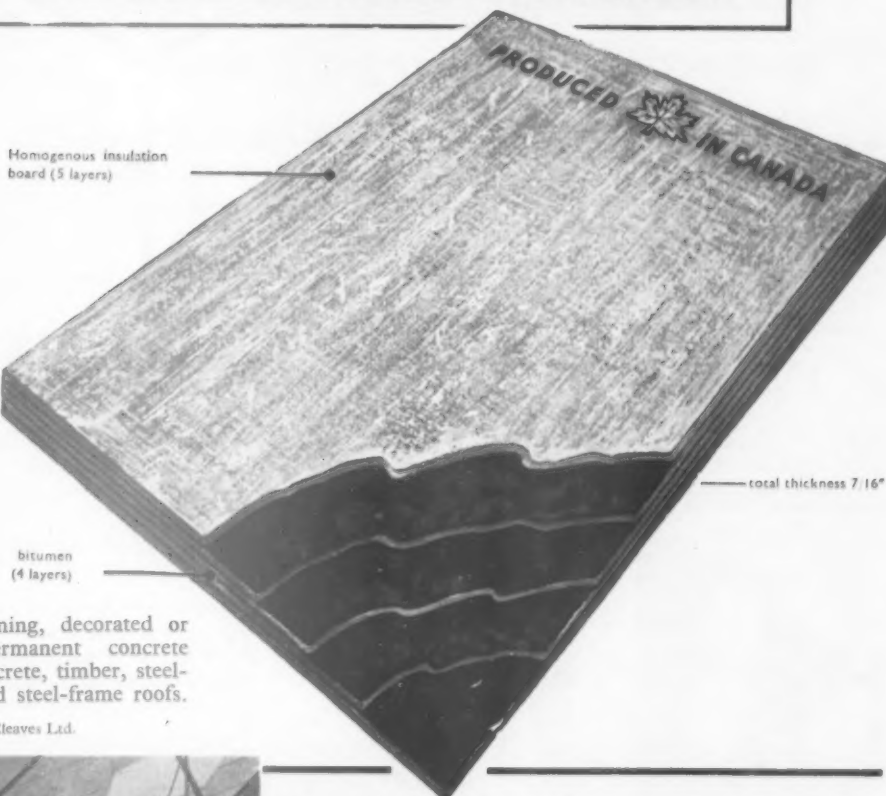
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SOUND  
ABSORPTION

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HIGH MOISTURE  
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EVEN  
TEMPERATURES  
MAINTAINED  
WITH ECONOMY  
IN FUEL

## BITUMEN-BONDED INSULATION BOARD



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Photograph by courtesy of A. R. & W. Cleaves Ltd.



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½ inch thick

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**A READY FOR USE PLASTIC COMPOUND  
FOR**

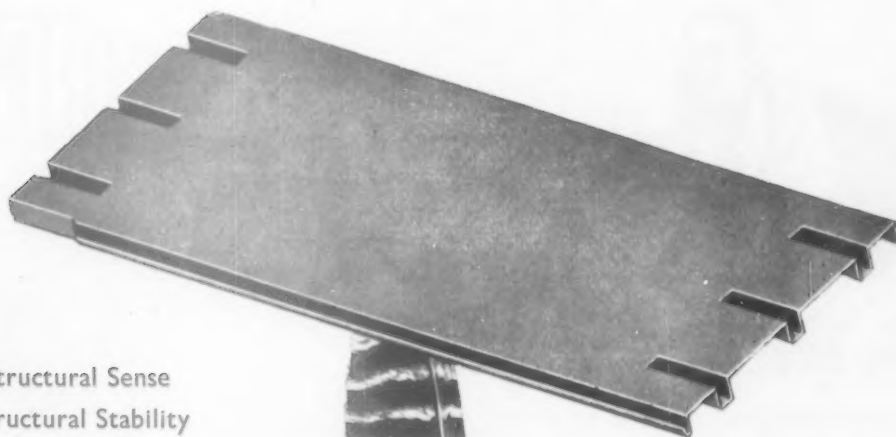
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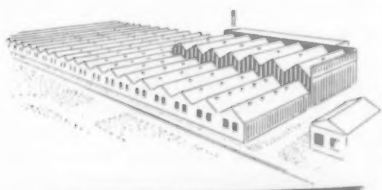
Steel to Steel = Structural Sense  
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## RUBEROID STEEL ROOF DECK

The Ruberoid Company Ltd. realised the possibilities of light-weight steel roofing units 25 years ago and the modern Ruberoid Steel Roof Deck represents a tremendous investment of long-term research and development. Ruberoid Steel Deck has been used

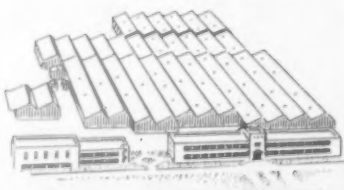
for some of the most outstanding roofing contracts in the world, including India, Singapore, Iraq, Java, South Africa, France, Belgium, and the Argentine. There is not a town or city in the British Isles which does not contain buildings roofed with Ruberoid Steel Deck.

## THE ROOF WITH RECORD PERFORMANCE



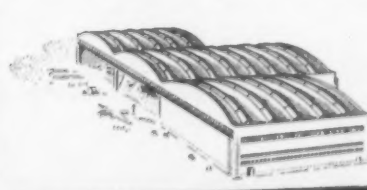
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Many of the largest roofs in the world are of Ruberoid Steel Deck as, for instance, the 50-acre roof of a building for the Ministry of Aircraft Production Factories.



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Because of its simple construction and the lightness of the individual units, Ruberoid Steel Deck can be erected in record time. A 34,000-sq.-yd. factory roof was completed in 27 working days.



### FOR ADAPTABILITY

Ruberoid Steel Deck lends itself to every type of roof surface, curved, flat or pitched. On the Bristol Brabazon hangar, for instance, it was employed on all the sloping, flat and vertical areas.



*The Ruberoid Contract Department* places its wide and long experience with all types of roofing problems freely at the disposal of architects: consultations at the design stage can, and often do, result in structural economy. The Department undertakes the supply and fixing of Ruberoid Roofing specifications on any scale from convenient centres throughout the British Isles.

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British Patent No. 676897.

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This picture, from a recent issue of **MECHANICAL HANDLING**, shows the section of a prefabricated chimney stack being placed by crane. Scaffolding is unnecessary, the working platform being supported by roof purlins.

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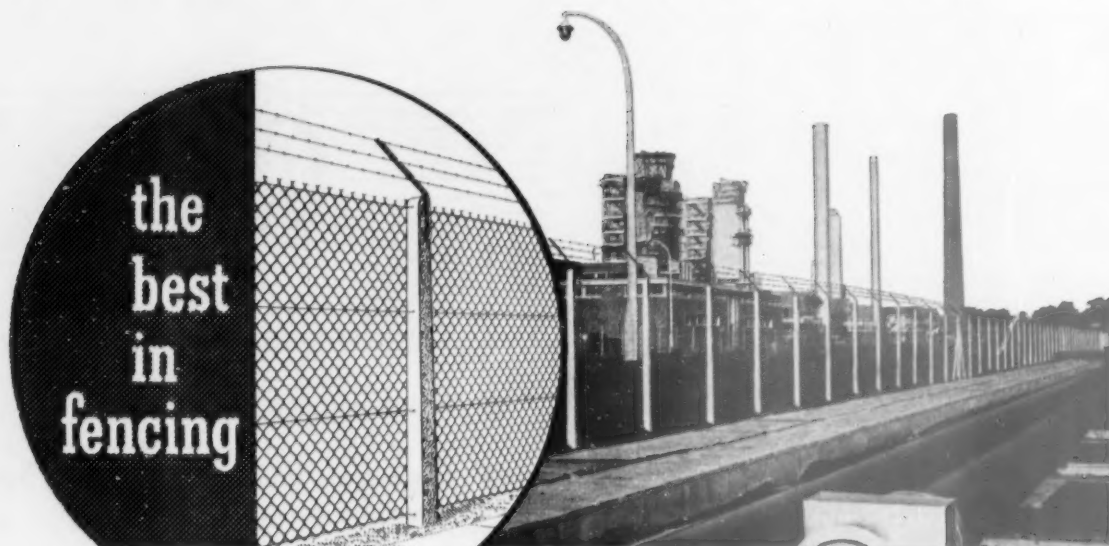
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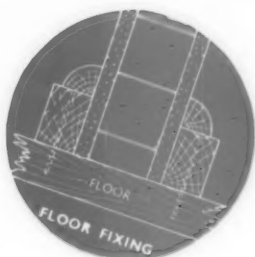
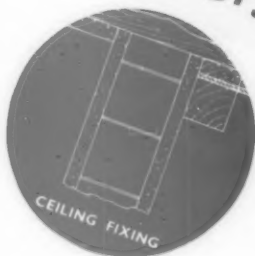
(Above) Comprehensive motor control board for air-conditioning and heating plant in the re-built House of Commons.

(Right) Standard A.C. straight-on starter.



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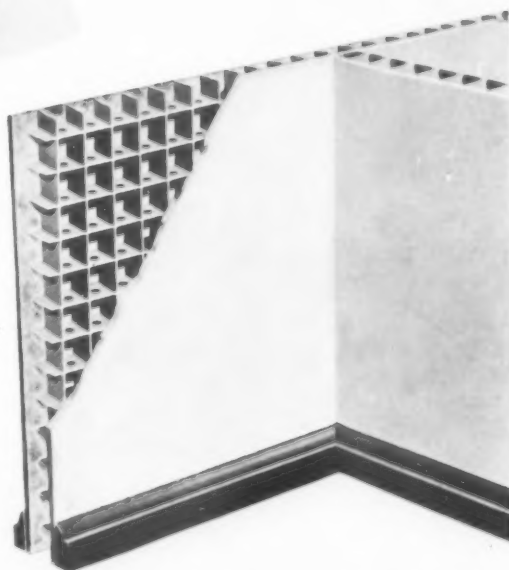
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8' 0"	3' 0"	2½" or 2¼"
7' 6"	3' 0"	2½" or 2¼"

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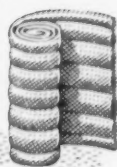
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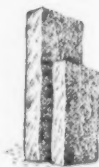
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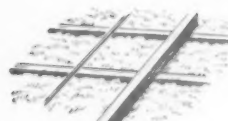
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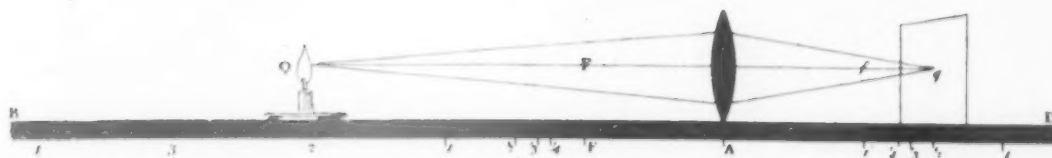


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*at the*  
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Daylight Film Projector is situated in the lounge of the Gas Exhibit at the Building Centre, Store Street, London, W.C.1, where visitors can relax in the comfortable warmth of an open coke fire and view Gas Council films.

On request to the technical representative, a repeater projector can be brought into operation.

To be seen at present is a film in which Philip Harben demonstrates on a variety of cookers the flexibility and ease of control of gas.

Other films are in course of production and will be available shortly.

The Gas Council is also providing a series of information films for inclusion in one of the lunch time film shows given to invited audiences in the Building Centre Lecture Theatre.

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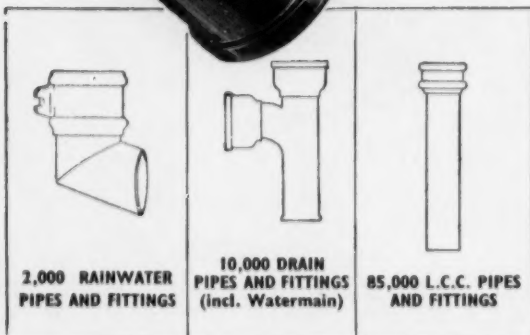
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Architects

W. S. Hattrell & Partners F.R.I.B.A.

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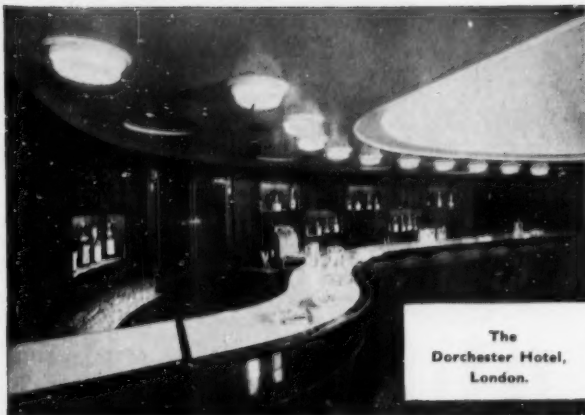
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# THE ARCHITECT & BUILDING NEWS

18 February 1954

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## A COMPETITION IMPASSE?

SOMETHING new has occurred in the sphere of architectural competitions. The three assessors for the recent competition (limited to architects in Ireland) for the Dublin Port and Docks Board Building have found that they are unable to recommend a design for acceptance and therefore, presumably, the Board will not proceed to appoint an architect for the work as a direct result of one winning the competition which they promoted.

We cannot recall, although we are open to correction, that in the long history of architectural competitions the first award has been withheld by the appointed assessors. It would appear from the R.I.B.A. regulations governing competitions (which were the basis of this particular competition) that there is nothing to say that a first award must be made. In fact, the award of an assessor is always laid down as final by agreement of all parties. It may even be that the action taken in Ireland is one upon which the assessors can be congratulated for bold frankness.

The question that arises is what happens next? Do the promoters start another competition? Do they appoint an architect outside those 28 who entered for the competition? Do they say that even though the assessors could not find a real winner, the design placed second was obviously the best submitted or it would not have received that award, therefore we will instruct that architect to proceed on the understanding he agrees to adjust his scheme to our reasonable requirements?

Another question arises; if there is no winner, should the other premiums be awarded? It might be held that it would be better to withhold them and have another competition, giving the former competitors choice of backing out or a chance to revise their

schemes and in the hope of other entrants. This is the procedure often adopted when an advertisement for an important appointment does not produce initially a satisfactory result. It would seem that the new situation could well be examined by the Competitions Committee of the R.I.B.A. and some ruling or announcement made by the Council.

\* \* \*

## FACTIONS IN COVENTRY

WE should like to offer our sympathy to Mr. Basil Spence, whose new Coventry Cathedral is now the subject of what is described as a bitter controversy in that city. Two issues are raised and confused, both of them incredible at this late stage. One is that the building of the new Cathedral will divert labour and materials from the more urgent matters of houses, schools and hospitals. The other that there is no need for a new Cathedral at all, since the existing churches in the city are not filled as it is. We will leave the second point as one which is the responsibility of the Cathedral Reconstruction Committee and which should surely have been debated before the Competition was announced. The other point is one which we will take up, although it has been raised and answered years ago, but apparently not to the satisfaction of the Chairman of the City Council's Policy Advisory Committee, for he is reported as saying:

"If the Reconstruction Committee [go direct to the Minister of Works for a licence] we will oppose them by every means in our power. We shall tell the Minister that schools, hospitals and houses should come before a new cathedral." The Chairman of the City Planning and Redevelopment Committee

(which, we understand, proposes to proceed with the building of a civic theatre and art gallery) is reported to have said, "There is a natural revolt against the Cathedral taking priority over hospitals, homes and comprehensive schools." Councillor Harry Weston is reported to have said, "We just have not got the customers to make the Cathedral worth while." All this in 1954! Thus the citizens of Coventry and would-be donors to the rebuilding fund, are clearly given to understand that Coventry is faced with the choice of either a new Cathedral OR schools, homes and hospitals. Unless it is proposed to employ the Royal College of Art to design panels of stained glass in the front doors of the new houses, or to build the schools in Hollington Stone, and enrich the hospital wards with carved hard-wood and elaborate metal-work, it is difficult to see why Coventry can't have both Cathedral and houses, schools, etc. As the Secretary of the Cathedral Reconstruction Committee argues, "we don't need bricks, we don't need softwood, we don't need local operatives." The cost will be covered by War Damage Compensation and donations, and does not come into it. Before the meeting (that we understand is to be held next Monday), we challenge the opponents of the Reconstruction Committee to say in exact terms what materials and categories of labour will, if employed on the new Cathedral, hold up more urgent work. They should ponder also which is likely to attract more visitors to their City, in the long run, Lady Godiva or Mr. Spence's Cathedral.

## EVENTS AND COMMENTS

### THE DUBLIN COMPETITION

The architectural competition system has received another buffet by the brave decision of the assessors in the competition for offices for the Dublin Port and Docks Board not to award a first prize. The promoters, nevertheless, have had to part with £800 in prizes and still have no design and no architect. Such a result to an architectural competition must be without precedent, although it is a pity that assessors in some other competitions have not had the nerve of Messrs. J. M. Fairweather, Vincent Kelly and Alfred Jones. What happens now? The original competition was confined to architects practising in Ireland. Perhaps we could have a Stage II competition with one prize of £700 (the original first prize) for architects practising in England. The problem is not by any means an easy one, for the new building will stand between Gandon's Custom House and Michael Scott's bus station.

### CHISWICK HOUSE

Chiswick House and its grounds still look pretty forlorn. The M.O.W. is gradually rebuilding the villa and the dome appears to be finished. A passing guardian told me that the building would not be ready for another two years. This is pretty slow going. At this rate it will be ten years before all the other little buildings in the grounds



Queen's Tower, 12-storey flats in the Duddeston redevelopment area of Birmingham, opened recently by the Minister of Housing and Local Government. The Architects are S. N. Cooke and Partners. The block contains 62 two-bedroom flats and four one-bedroom flats.

are repaired. Since my last visit someone has planted a lot of little yew trees round the circular pond in front of the temple. They have completely spoiled this part of the grounds. I am told that this was being done because an old print was discovered showing yew trees planted thus. I still dislike them.

### CRAZY PAVING IN YOUR HOME

The latest American idea is crazy paving for internal use made of plastic tiling. Many colours are available. It is most ingeniously contrived by providing prefabricated joints arranged like irregular fishnets which lock into each other jig-saw puzzle fashion. The holes in the net are then filled with jolly coloured pieces of plastic tile. No kidding.

### CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE

I do not often agree with the views of the *Evening Standard*. However, I think its leader on Carlton House Terrace last Saturday was, generally speaking, very good. Unfortunately, the writer saw fit to blame the Minister of Works personally for the scheme and for wanting to proceed with it. This made me wonder whether the paper was not more concerned with bashing the Minister than with preserving London.

The Carlton House Terrace scheme should never have been allowed to have reached this stage. It was, you may remember, developed without publicity and suddenly presented as a scheme which had been placed before the Royal Fine Art Commission. There was an outcry in



Parliament and in the Press, and we were all told that the thing was decided and it was too late to do anything about it now except to incorporate recommendations from the R.F.A.C.—which may possibly have commented on the size of the door knobs. The official reply to the outcry led many people to demand that in future, such monstrous ideas should be made public at an early stage so that they could be suitably dealt with. Even now it is not too late for the scheme to be stopped.

### HOT AIR AT THE TATE

I noticed, as I shuffled among the crowds on the last day of the Raoul Dufy exhibition at the Tate Gallery, that large areas of the floor in some galleries had been taken up apparently to do something to the heating system. I hope the idea is not to increase its output, for the place was already at swooning temperature. I enjoyed the gaiety of the Dufys. My small daughter rather unkindly summed up the exhibition by saying that she supposed that that type of painting was much easier to do than the Flemish sort. She also wanted to know why sculptors did not finish their nudes with goose-flesh. I thought that beads of perspiration would have been more appropriate for the Tate.

### PLANNERS' HOLIDAY

The Town and Country Planning Association is going to Norway and Sweden for this year's study holiday tour. The tour is based on second-class travel and comfortable hotels. It will include some official dinners and luncheons and tours will be arranged by local planning authorities. The tour will be limited to 35 people and will be led by Mr. F. J. Osborn, Chairman of the Executive of the

T. and C.P.A. The party will leave Newcastle on August 25 and return to Tilbury on September 13. The cost, including practically everything, except, of course, tea, will be £75. Full particulars from T. and C.P.A., 28, King Street, Covent Garden, W.C.2. It is nice to think that there are planners in this country who can afford this type of busman's holiday; what do they do with their children?

What a pity that travel is now so expensive. In my experience it is almost impossible to reduce the costs of a tour sufficiently to make it attractive to students and young architects without also reducing the standards below those acceptable to the slightly older and more sybaritic.

### ARCHITECTURE v. COAL

The National Coal Board wishes to mine coal under Arbury Hall, near Nuneaton. The Hall has been in the possession of the Newdigate family for 400 years and the present building is stated to be "without exception the finest and most complete example of eighteenth century Gothic decoration in the country." This decoration, which was carried out by Sir Roger Newdigate in 1780, during the remodelling of the original Elizabethan house, consists of plaster fan vaulting and tracery. The N.C.B. calculates that it could mine half a million tons of coal in a pillar beneath the house and it feels that in doing so the hall would not be damaged seriously. The total subsidence of the ground to be expected when the mining was completed would be 2ft 9in, but as the building would sink evenly the N.C.B. does not think that any damage would occur to the building which could not be replaced by "a good craftsman." All this came out at a M.O.H.L.G. inquiry into the Board's application. Doubtless the Board's evidence was based on technical knowledge and experience, strongly backed by a very considerable desire to get the coal. On the other side of the argument is the fact that Arbury Hall is listed as Grade 1 on the Ministry's list of buildings of architectural and historic interest. The application was opposed by the Warwickshire County Council, the S.P.A.B., the Birmingham and Five Counties' Architectural Society, the Birmingham Archaeological Society and the George Eliot Fellowship. As the chairman of the inquiry, Mr. S. T. Roberts of the M.O.H.L.G. pointed out, the evidence had shown that no one could be sure that the hall would not be damaged as a result of the operations. The country was not so bankrupt of natural resources that such a risk needed to be taken. An official of the N.C.B. said that the expected half a million tons of coal would, at the present ration, keep the 60,000 people of Nuneaton supplied for four years. So there you have it in a nutshell. Assuming, as any sensible architect must, that severe damage to the plaster work of this unique building would be certain, its value as an historic monument Grade I is being weighed in the balance against four years coal supply for the town of Nuneaton.

If perchance you are among those who think that this building can be allowed to subside 2ft 9in—under N.C.B. supervision, of course—without sustaining damage that "a good craftsman" could not put right, look at the picture of its dining room facing page 177 in Sacheverell Sitwell's *British Architects and Craftsmen*. I hope you will agree with me that the idea is absurd and that a Grade I on the Ministry's list should have been enough to protect Arbury Hall without the necessity of holding an inquiry at all.

ABNER



Two high blocks at Vällingby, a new housing scheme for 24,000 people in the vicinity of Stockholm.

## NEWS OF THE WEEK

### Exhibition of Photographs of Venetian Villas

This exhibition is to be the Royal Institute's major spring exhibition. It will be on view from February 25-March 27 and will be opened by the Italian Ambassador.

The exhibition, which has already been shown with conspicuous success at Treviso, Milan and Rome, is being brought to London specially for showing at the Institute. It consists of exceptionally fine photographs of villas in the region of Venetia, ranging in style from early Venetian Gothic to the Neo-classicism of the Napoleonic era. There are eight main sections in the exhibition, corresponding with the eight provinces that make up the region—Venice, Verona, Vicenza, Padua, Treviso, Rovigo, Udine and Belluno.

In addition to numerous examples of Gothic and Palladian architecture, the exhibition includes a photograph of the remains of Petrarch's famous villa at Arquà, built in the mid-fourteenth century, which was to become the prototype of the first country houses in Venetia.

Prominently featured in the exhibition are Palladio's superb villas in and around Vicenza.

It is expected that the exhibition will visit some of the major towns in Britain after it has been shown in London.

### The N.F.B.T.E. Foregather

Cause for satisfaction was the keynote of the principal speakers at the dinner and dance of the National Federation of Building Trade Employers which took place at the Dorchester Hotel recently.

The housing progress in 1953 and an overall increase in building of 10 per cent over 1952 has pleased the Government; the builders are pleased with easier licences and less government. "Less government than we pay for," as Wilfred Horsfall, the President neatly put it. Mr. Horsfall said that one of the builders' problems was how to economize to get prices down. Demands for higher wages elsewhere affected his own industry, he said.

Replying to the President's toast "Her Majesty's Government," Sir David Eccles, K.C.V.O., Minister of Works, thought the assembled company might well send their congratulations to the makers of materials whom he said promised a new capacity this year including a substantial increase in bricks.



The Stalinales in the Soviet sector of Berlin showing nine-storey blocks of flats with roof gardens.

George W. Grosvenor, then Senior Vice-President, now new President of the N.F.B.T.E., proposed the toast of the Guests and was replied to by Trevor Evans, a director and industrial correspondent of the *Daily Express*.

### Architects and Surveyors

Another social event which took place recently was the dinner and ball of the London and Home Counties Branch of the Incorporated Association of Architects and Surveyors, at the Park Lane Hotel, with F. J. Meekins, Branch Chairman, presiding. Guests included Sir Alfred Bossom, Bt., who is a Vice-President of the Association, the recently elected President of the Association, Lt.-Col. A. E. Henson, J. R. W. Alexander, C.B.E., President of the Institute of Arbitrators and Alderman Dean, immediate past-President of the Association. Alderman Dean received the C.B.E. in the New Year Honours, for political and public service in Marylebone. It was he who was mainly responsible for successfully reorganizing the Association during his term as President.

Sir Alfred Bossom replied to the toast of the Guests proposed by Mr. Meekins. Lt.-Col. Henson who replied to the toast of the Association proposed by Mr. Alexander, reminded the company that the Association is now nearly thirty years old and is determined to gain the fullest recognition of the Government and other professional bodies.

### Dover Competition

Dover Borough Council have now been told by the Planning Committee of the Kent County Council that the committee cannot approve the design of the proposed multi-storeyed flats

on the Dover sea front in their present form.

A decision had been deferred until the views of the Royal Fine Art Commission were known. The Commission rejected the design because it considered a continuous block of flats along the sea front would be detrimental to amenities and because the flats would be too high.

The County Planning Committee says it agrees with the Commission's views. They have expressed the further opinion that the view of Dover Castle and cliffs from Marine Parade as well as from the sea should be taken into account when a fresh design is presented.

### APPOINTMENTS

Mr. James B. Crossland, A.M.T.P.I., of Edinburgh, has been appointed senior planning assistant on the staff of the County Architect and Planning Officer, Banff County Council.

Mr. Joseph D. Beaumont, D.A., A.R.I.B.A., Dip. T.P. (Edin.), A.M.T.P.I., has been appointed assistant chief town planning architect to East Kilbride Development Corporation.

Mr. W. R. Wark, A.R.I.B.A., County Architect and Planning Officer, Banffshire, has been appointed by Banff C.C. as their assessor on a Cairgorms consultative panel which is being set up by the Scottish Council of the Nature Conservancy, Edinburgh.

Mr. G. G. Furness, A.R.I.B.A., at present senior assistant architect West Riding Architects' Department, has been appointed principal assistant architect in charge of the education section of the Borough Engineer's Department, Wakefield.



Mr. George C. Fox, President, F.A.S., and Mrs. Fox greeting Mr. Pembroke Wicks at the Annual Dinner of the Faculty of Architects and Surveyors.

## COMING EVENTS

### The Ecclesiological Society

Feb. 20 at 3 p.m. Lecture on "John Dando Sedding (1839-1891), Architect," by H. V. Molesworth Roberts, at the Hall of the College of Preceptors, 2, Bloomsbury Square, W.C.1.

### Students' Planning Group

February 22 at 6.30 p.m. Talk on "Lansbury Social Survey," by John Westergaard, B.Sc. (Econ.), Dept. of Town Planning, University College, London, at 28, King Street, Covent Garden, W.C.2.

### Chadwick Public Lecture

February 23 at 6 p.m. Lecture on "Modular Co-ordination in the Building Industry," by Mark Hartland Thomas, O.B.E., M.A., F.R.I.B.A., M.S.I.A., Secretary to the Modular Society. (Bossmom Gift Lecture.) At The Royal Sanitary Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1.

### The Architectural Association

February 24 at 6.30 p.m. Ordinary General Meeting. Talk on "Architectural Journalism," by Eric Bird, William Clark, John Smith and others, at 36, Bedford Square, W.C.1.

### Royal Society of Arts

February 24 at 2.30 p.m. Talk on "The Society's Early Days; Some Light from its Letters," by K. W. Luckhurst, M.A., Secretary of the Society, at John Adam Street, Adelphi, W.C.2.

### The Institution of Structural Engineers

February 25 at 5.30 p.m. Talk on "Prestressed Steel Lattice Girders," by R. A. Sefton Jenkins, B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E., A.C.G.I., at 11, Upper Belgrave Street, S.W.1.

## British Designer Wins American Award

The judges for the American Display World's fourth International Display Contest have awarded a Bronze Medal for exhibition display design to W. M. de Majo, of London.

The contest had 3,120 entries in its 98 different classifications and the quality of the displays entered was described as excellent.

## Building Centre at Hamburg

The German Building Centre at Hamburg, designed as a permanent exhibition to serve the interests of architects, building engineers and authorities, was opened on May 28, 1953. The following report was made by a representative of the British Consulate General at Hamburg following his recent visit.

The centre is the only Building Centre of its kind in Germany. The initiative in establishing it was taken by three partners (a former architect, a former salesman in the building trade and a journalist) who pooled their resources to form a limited liability company. It occupies an area of 3,000 square metres of which 1,200 square metres will eventually be available for renting. While still in its infancy, the organizers are in process of developing connections with Building Centres in neighbouring countries and are anxious to attract the attention of manufacturing firms outside Germany. The Consulate General state that the Centre is well laid out and offers several items of original interest: they feel that it might prove to be a useful show-window for the United Kingdom firms in the building and associated industries. The management appear to be active and keen to publicize the Centre as widely as possible. Their publicity is achieved through correspondence with manufacturing firms and by associating

their address with articles advertised in the German press. Regular lectures are arranged on subjects of interest for specialists in the building industry.

The organizers would be prepared to answer general enquiries about exhibits but would refer more detailed enquiries to the head office or agent of the manufacturing firm concerned.

Further information may be obtained from: Herr Grutzmacher, German Building Centre, Esplanade 6, Hamburg.

Enquiries about this notice should be addressed to the Board of Trade, Exhibitions Branch, Lacon House, Theobalds Road, London, W.C.1. (Telephone: Chancery 4411, Ext. 418.)

## Fourth Mechanical Handling Exhibition and Convention

The world's largest and most comprehensive display of labour-aiding and ancillary equipment will be seen at Olympia, London, from June 9 to 19, 1954, when the Fourth Mechanical Handling Exhibition and Convention are held.

The Exhibition and Convention are biennial and regularly attract visitors from all over the world. More than 200 firms will exhibit in 1954 and the space occupied will exceed 250,000 square feet, 14,000 more than on the last occasion in 1952.

All types of labour aids will be shown and most of them will be seen in operation. They will include pallets, trucks, cranes, aerial ropeways, overhead conveyors, belt conveyors, elevators, wagon tippers, winches, power units, chains, gears, controls and all other accessories. Many of the exhibits will be of interest to owners of small workshops as well as to manufacturers on a big scale.

Twelve papers will be read and discussed at the Convention, the subjects including work study, bulk handling by transporters, mobile cranes, belt conveyors, aerial ropeways, cargo handling, the economics of industrial trucks and electronics. There is also to be an open forum, when a team of experts will answer questions on any mechanical-handling subject. Full particulars of the Convention will be circulated shortly.

The Mechanical Handling Exhibition and Convention are organized by *Mechanical Handling* (Associated Iliffe Press, Dorset House, Stamford Street, London, S.E.1), with the support of the following associations: Aerial Ropeways Association, Association of Crane Makers, Foundry Trades Equipment and Supplies Association, Industrial Truck Manufacturers' Association and the Mechanical Handling Engineers' Association.

A 25-minute colour film, made of the working exhibits in the last exhibition and giving a good idea of the scope of the coming one, is now circulating in Canada, Australia and India and is available there and elsewhere on application to any British Government information office or direct to the organizers.



## IN PARLIAMENT

## Metaphysics of Floor Coverings

M.P.s interested in floor coverings produced some pretty posers for Ministers when the order authorizing the new rates of purchase tax was debated. The order reimposes tax on certain tiles, strips and blocks at the same rate of 25 per cent as applies to other floor coverings. These articles were exempted from tax in 1948, when the intention was that as a result of the exercise of building controls then in operation they should be used only in new houses erected by public authorities.

Mr. Boyd-Carpenter, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, presenting the new order for approval, recalled that objections were raised when the exemption was made that it would introduce unfairness between the materials named and other floor coverings, and that it offered an incentive to cutting rolls of linoleum or rubber flooring into small pieces to qualify for a like exemption. The answer then was that no unfairness would arise because competing floor coverings were in such short supply that competition would not arise, and that there was no evidence that manufacturers were seeking to avoid tax by cutting taxable floor coverings into small pieces and calling them tiles; both developments had since occurred, and compelled reconsideration. To withdraw purchase tax from all floor coverings would cost £17 millions, and therefore the alternative of attempting to treat all alike had been chosen. It would mean an extra cost for tiles of £3 or £4 in a local authority house, but that would be a single addition to capital cost, and was about the same sum as authorities would save every year by the reduction of loan interest. A more difficult point was where the line of demarcation should fall in respect of wooden floors. The intention was that the expensive parquet floor should pay its share in competition with other more expensive floorings. The difficulty was in deciding the precise thickness of tile which would make it a floor covering as opposed to an ingredient of a floor, and the figure chosen of five-eighths of an inch was that agreed with the trade when the tax was originally imposed in 1940-41. It was calculated that the increased revenue on floor coverings would be about £1,000,000.

## Floor or Covering?

All these arguments were assailed in turn. Mr. Jay voiced the Opposition's objections to this addition to housing costs and argued for the alternative course of exempting linoleum and the cheaper flooring materials from tax. Sir Robert Boothby came out in vigorous support of Windsor flooring, of which he said that 250,000 sq. yds. had been laid since 1948, at a remarkably cheap price. The wearing surface

was equivalent to three-quarters of an inch of wood-block flooring, and it used only half as much timber. This was not a flooring covering, but a floor. Yet to avoid the tax it would have to be made five eighths of an inch thick, instead of its present three-eighths, using that much more wood. The result of the order would be to exempt from tax, deep wooden floors which the rich could afford, and subject to 25 per cent tax the equally good wearing floor used in cheaper houses. A frightful mistake had been made. He thought it would raise costs by £5 or £6 a house, and he was upset by the feeling that it was an example of slapdash, ill-considered, inefficient administration. In a later interjection he added that the 25 per cent tax would bring the Windsor flooring to the level of the most expensive floorings and knock it out.

Mr. Derek Walker-Smith pointed out the difficulty of applying in practice the intention that the tax should fall on floor coverings and not on floors. For example, mastic asphalt became integrated with the structure and consequently did not bear tax. There was a fine metaphysical distinction involved. He also contributed some figures on cost for the small private enterprise house. In a house of 1,000 superficial feet this would be about 470 sq ft to be floored on the ground level; at 11s a sq yd that would cost £28 12s, which meant £7 3s in purchase tax. On a comparable basis, in a local authority house the tax would be about £5. It was regrettable that anything should be done to increase the cost of house building.

Mr. W. R. A. Hudson questioned whether thermo-plastic tiles were in competition with linoleum, and said that if they were not, the argument of equity disappeared. Brigadier T. Clarke sought to clear the air by defining floor coverings as something which could be picked up and shaken, or taken away on removal, and thought the Government were acting foolishly in adding to housing costs. Mr. G. Nabarro spoke up for the carpet manufacturers, and offered the opinion that the great bulk of the £17 millions revenue from purchase tax on floor coverings came from carpets and linoleum, and not from the articles which were named in the order. He also objected to a discrimination in favour of electric space heaters.

Mr. Eric Fletcher said that the makers of thermo-plastic tiles contended that their product was an improved type of floor, and could in no sense be described as a floor covering. The tax would therefore penalize efficiency and inventive genius, and put a burden on modern development.

## Prospect of Adjustment

The Chancellor of the Exchequer defended the order as necessary because of growing evasion. He stated that of the £17 millions revenue from the tax, £12 millions came from carpets and rugs, and the remainder from

linoleum and rubber. To have sought equity by taking off the tax would have meant a sacrifice of £5 millions of revenue, and that he could not afford.

About the difficulties of definition, Mr. Butler said that if representations were made to the Treasury and the Customs, and it was found that any adjustments were possible to make things fair, that would be done. In the effort to achieve some degree of fairness he had got into trouble, but he believed that he had preserved a sense of equity. The order was approved by 269 votes to 241. (Feb. 9.)

## Carlton House Terrace Site

Mr. Stokes asked the Minister of Agriculture what considerations led his department to the conclusion that the redevelopment of Carlton House Terrace as a Foreign Office rather than as an area for hotels, flats and other commercial enterprises would be to the national advantage, especially having regard to the high site value and the dollars it might earn. Sir Thomas Dugdale stated that the alternative uses of the site were considered in 1951 by the previous Government. He understood the conclusion reached was that use as high-class offices would be the most remunerative and give the best security. It was also felt that the property would be particularly suitable as a Foreign Office. No final plans had yet been submitted to the Commissioners of Crown Lands. (Feb. 11.)

## Too Early Inquiry

Mr. Jenner asked the Minister of Works to what extent he was using, in the buildings being erected by his Department, a new material made from rice husks, which was fireproof and thermite-proof and had special insulating qualities. Sir David Eccles replied that the only material of this kind of which the Department had any knowledge was not yet on the market in this country. Until it was available and had been tested he could not say whether it would be used in the erection of new Government buildings.

## CORRESPONDENCE

## Glass in Our Cold Climate

To the Editor of A. & B.N.

Sir,—I wonder how many people compelled to work, "school," or live in the glass-walled factories and offices, schools and houses, during the past fortnight have enjoyed their experience.

This naïve cliché of using large areas of glass by so-called progressive and modern architects (first noticeable, I think, about 1934) is beyond comprehension, especially considering the very high cost and shortage of solid fuels.

Fuel experts have been pointing out to us for at least ten years now that this situation will get worse!

I am, etc.,  
"MAINTENANCE SURVEYOR."





A Perspective View

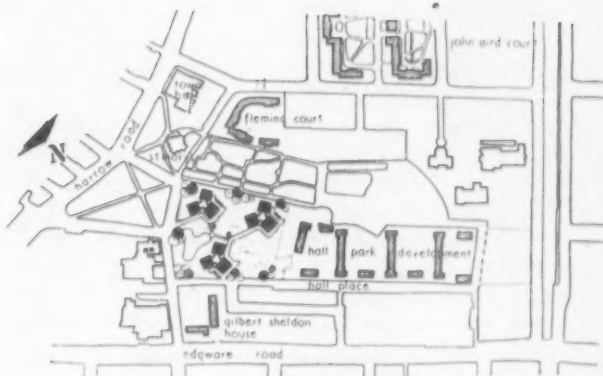
## PERKINS HEIGHTS

A high density housing development proposal adjoining Paddington Green to house 1,092 persons in three 15-storey "point" blocks

architect:

ROLF JENSEN, F.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I. B.ARCH.

Director of Housing, Paddington Met. Borough



THE proposal is at the moment in the hands of the Planning Authority—the London County Council. If approval is received in due course the intention is to develop the site at a net density of 320 persons per acre; or, taking into account the considerable surrounding area of public open space, a gross density of 124 persons per acre—in a density zone of 136 persons per acre. The height of the buildings and the spacing (and therefore the density) have been arrived at by a careful analysis of daylighting; sunlighting; overshadowing conditions, and the proper standard of privacy and amenity to the dwellings, and is in no sense arbitrary.

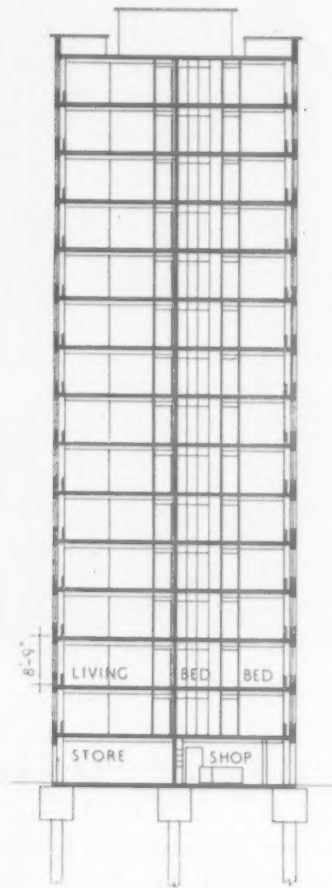
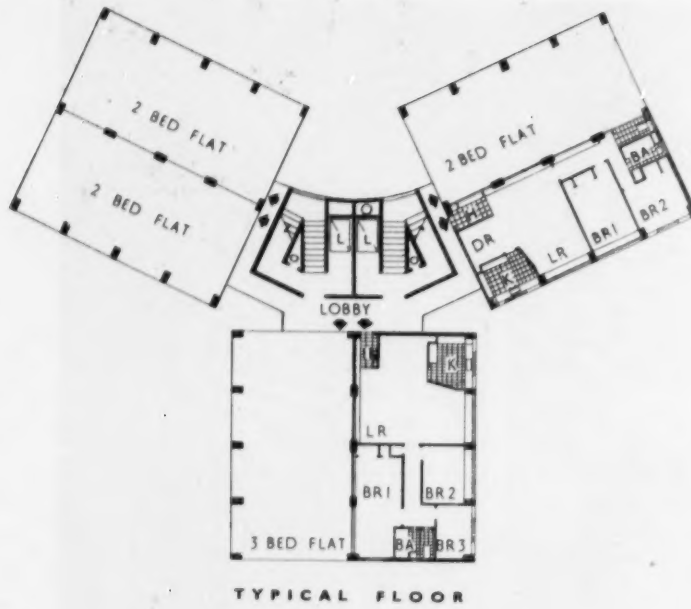
The 15-storey blocks will be approximately 138ft in height. There is, of course, provision for building over the 100ft level in the London Building Act, but subject to rights of objection from surrounding owners within a specified area. Since, however, virtually no overshadowing of surrounding property occurs, it is hoped

that this right of objection will not prove to be an insuperable difficulty.

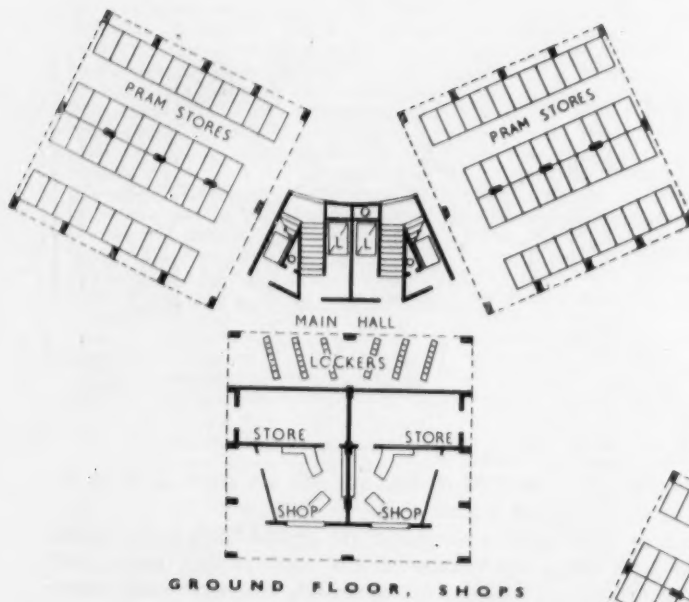
With the exception of the ground floors to the blocks, which will contain tenants' store rooms; tradesmen's lockers; shops; the caretaker's flat, and boiler house access, the remaining 14-storeys will be identical in each block, and thereby provide the greatest possible standardization in planning and components. Each typical floor will contain six flats accessible from the staircase and lift core, four of which will be 2-bedroom flats, and two 3-bedroom flats.

The "Y" shape plan, orientated as is intended, has been found to give the best possible insolation conditions for the flats as a whole, with average sunlighting duration of over 6½ hours per flat during the summer solstice.

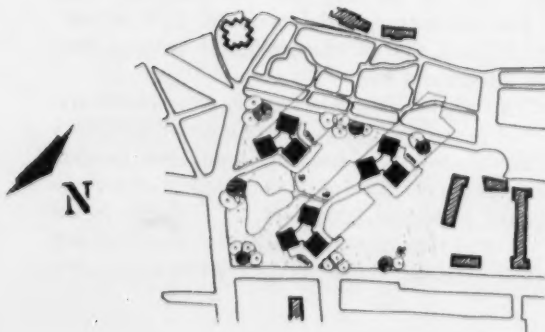
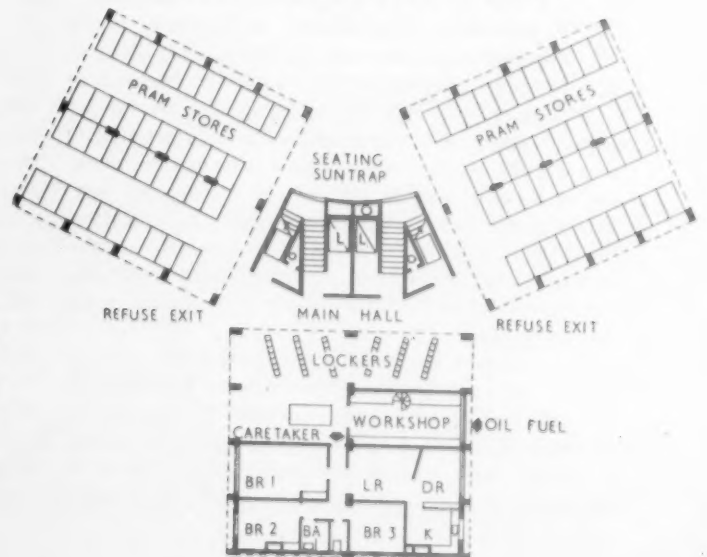
A further important feature of the planning is the use of the open type of layout in the flat, thus reducing unproductive circulation space to the absolute minimum—



SECTION SCALE: 1 in = 30 ft



GROUND FLOOR, CARETAKER



## Perkins Heights: A High Density Development Proposal

and ensuring the maximum of privacy. This type of arrangement has been found superior to, and more economical than, any of the other alternatives such as balcony access; Triplex; maisonnette; or internal corridor plans.

It has also been found from experience that no system of construction has the same degree of flexibility and economy, and speed of construction, as the reinforced concrete orthodox column and beams system. The steel frame can be more rapidly constructed, but is extravagant, and the reinforced concrete cross-wall system seriously interferes with planning and speed of construction. To obtain still further advantages, however, from the use of the most orthodox system of reinforced concrete construction, and to eliminate some of the serious disadvantages inherent in normal forms of shuttering, a semi-prefabricated system has been devised. It should be emphasized that this system disposes of the one great disadvantage which has been common to nearly all previous systems using any degree of prefabrication—lack of continuity at the connections; and this, of course, is a matter of first importance in a 15-storey building. It is also intended, for reasons of standardization, to work on a strict 10ft structural module throughout. The floor infilling will be by means of prestressed reinforced concrete plank units forming permanent shuttering to the in situ concrete subsequently poured into column and beam shells, and to the flooring as a whole.

A special system of precast concrete slab cladding has also been devised, requiring the minimum amount of special fixings. Alternatively, certain portions of the cladding may be in hollow plastic or aluminium sheeting.

There will be no internal plastering since the beam and column shells will be self-finished, and elsewhere it is hoped to be able to obtain approval to an inner

leaf to the outside walls and internal partitions in dry plaster board cellular partitioning.

Flats will be provided with background central heating, but not central hot water, since these systems are subject to considerable abuse and wastage which it is difficult to check. Instead local gas water heaters or electric immersion heaters are proposed.

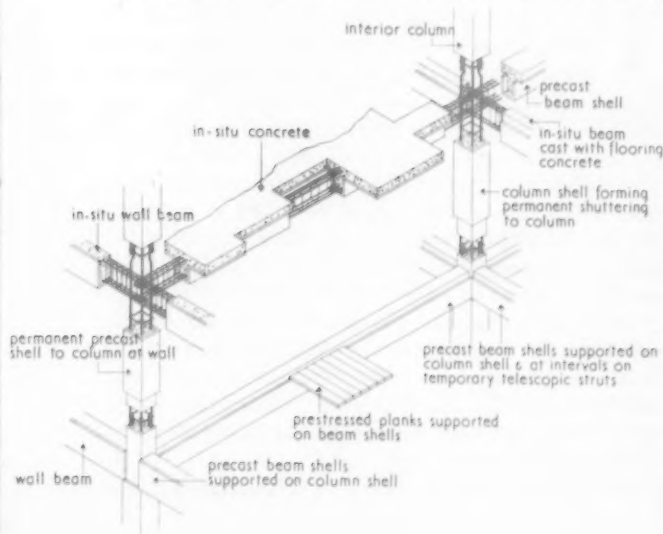
The foundations will consist of normal piling, and it is not anticipated that there should be any complications from what is known of sub-soil conditions.

From preliminary estimates it appears that the cost of the scheme can be kept within an overall figure of 4s 10½d per foot cube, or 48s per foot super, but these figures are necessarily somewhat approximate at this stage.

It is hoped that once construction starts it can be completed in a period of approximately three years. It is an essential part of the proposal that construction can be carried out within the compass of the 150ft Tower Crane, which is the maximum at present available, and to obtain the full advantages of the use of such equipment the blocks would need to be constructed more or less simultaneously. The use of this crane would, of course, permit of the handling of large precast units, if necessary, and would undoubtedly speed up completion.

It is of considerable interest to note that the Ministry of Housing in a recent display at the Building Exhibition have shown their awareness of the importance of high residential density development, and this of course was to some extent anticipated in their hand-book on Residential Densities in which densities of up to 300 persons per acre were examined. Moreover, the County of London Plan—1951, provides for the inclusion, in certain circumstances, of so-called "high density pockets": the conditions being very closely analogous with those which apply to this site.

DIAGRAM OF THE CONSTRUCTION (Patent applied for)



A model of the "point" blocks



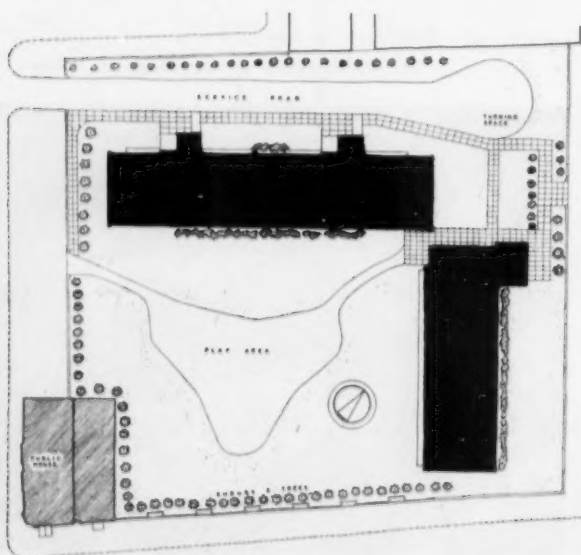


View from the South-East

## GILBERT SHELDON HOUSE. PADDINGTON

architect: ROLF JENSEN, F.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I., B.A.RCH.

Director of Housing, Paddington Borough Council



Block Plan

THIS scheme originally formed a part of a larger redevelopment plan intended to extend from Church Street, along the Edgware Road frontage, to the Grand Union Canal. The frontage land has, however, proved to be so expensive that continuation of the scheme for Local Authority housing is now unlikely. This unfortunately means that the repetitive effects which were deliberately sought cannot be achieved, and that the present scheme must "stand on its own feet"; and the composition of the blocks on the site has been greatly influenced by these considerations.

There are 40 families accommodated in two blocks. One 8-storey block (which had to have piled foundations) comprising thirty 2-bedroom flats and two 1-bedroom flats, and one 4-storey block, comprising eight 3-bedroom maisonnettes. Reinforced concrete in situ framing is used throughout.

The 8-storey block is served by a staircase and lift

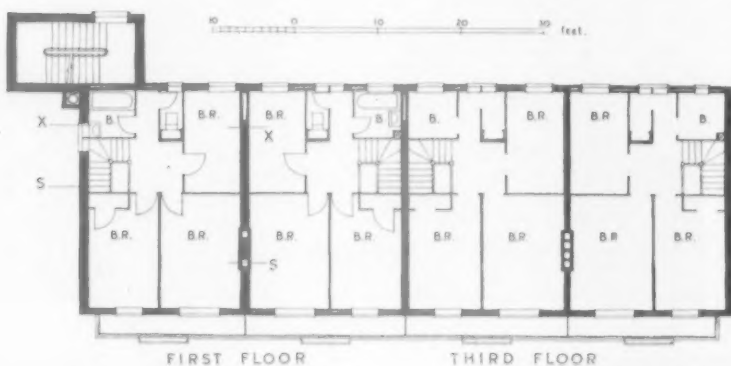




HALF GROUND FLOOR B

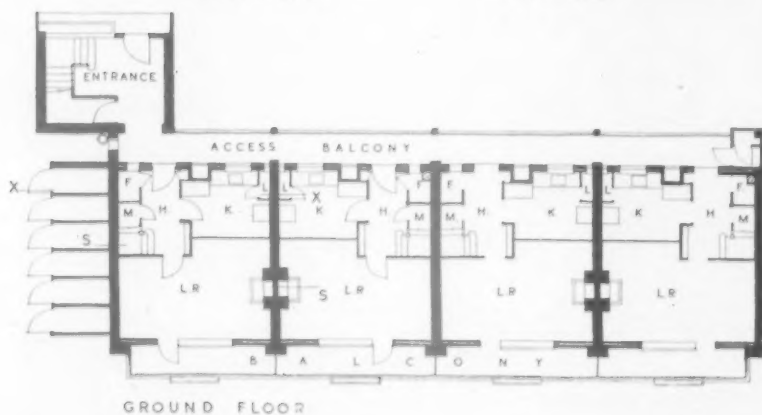
HALF FIRST FLOOR

PLANS, SCALE: 20FT TO 1 INCH. ABOVE: TYPICAL FLOOR PLANS OF THE FLATS. BELOW: THE MAISONNETTE LAYOUT. THE SCALE OF SECTION B-B IS 40FT TO THE INCH, THAT OF THE COMPOSITE SECTION X-X AND S-S IS 20FT TO THE INCH.

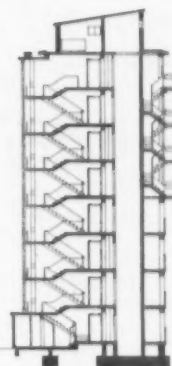


FIRST FLOOR

THIRD FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR



SECTION B-B

SECTION X-X ground & first floors.  
S-S second & third floors.



access direct to every flat, whereas the maisonnette block is served by a single staircase and access balconies on ground and second floor levels.

The system of construction decided upon involved 6in reinforced concrete load-bearing walls at the ends of the high block, to the staircase and on the centre party division. This system provided, in effect, a modified box frame structure, but with intermediate columns and beams in the orthodox pattern. Floors and roof are of hollow tile construction, and the external panel walls

of 4½in flint lime brick with 2in cavity, and 3in clinker blocks forming the internal leaf. Internal partitions are of 2in or 3in cellular clinker blocks. The brickwork has been pointed with flush perpends and the bed joints well raked out in order to create a horizontal emphasis and a texture which synthetic bricks do not otherwise possess.

The flues to slow burning grates in living rooms are formed of precast refractory concrete cylindrical liners, cased in breeze slabs with a light-weight concrete in-

### **Gilbert Sheldon House, Paddington**

filling. These have been so planned as to form a neat battery on either side of the roof pent house, and thus avoid numerous excrescences on the roof line.

The floor finish consists of plastic tiles throughout, and extensive use has been made of emulsion paint for decorative purposes.

The 4-storey block is of load-bearing cross-wall construction on a reinforced concrete raft foundation, which was necessitated by the partial remnants of a disused air

raid shelter, and other unsatisfactory foundation conditions. Floors and roof are of hollow tile construction, but the internal staircases to the maisonnettes have been constructed in timber.

All flats and maisonnettes are heated by open slow-burning fires. Living rooms and bedrooms are also provided with 13 amp. socket outlets on a ring main system, to take electric fires. Hot water is supplied throughout by balanced flue multi-point gas water heaters serving

*The entrance elevation of the maisonnette block faces North-East*



*The garden elevation, shown below, faces South-West*





GENERAL CONTRACTORS  
J. M. HILL & SONS LTD.  
SUBCONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS  
Ascot Heaters: Ascot Gas Water Heaters Ltd.  
Boundary Wall Mesh: Light Steelwork (1925) Ltd.  
Bricks: Uxbridge Flint Brick Co. Ltd.  
Electrical Installation: Iverson Electrical Ltd.  
End Wall Treatment: Gunnac Ltd.  
Floor Tiling: Neuchatel Asphalte Co. Ltd.  
Flues to Fires: "True Flue" Ltd.  
Flush Doors: H. Newsum Sons & Co. Ltd.  
Gas: North Thames Gas Board  
Ironmongery: Adrian Stokes Ltd.  
Kitchen Units: E. & H. Grace Ltd.  
Lifts: Hammond & Champness Ltd.  
Lightning Conductors: R. C. Cutting Co. Ltd.  
Metal Windows: Crittall Manufacturing Co. Ltd.  
Paint generally: Thos. Parsons & Sons Ltd.  
Paint on Concrete externally: Duresco Products Ltd.  
Partition Blocks: Broad Co. Ltd.  
Piling: Simplex Concrete Piles Ltd.  
Roofing: Neuchatel Asphalte Co. Ltd.  
Sanitary Fittings: Stitsons Sanitary Fittings Ltd.  
Steel Balustrading: Light Steelwork (1925) Ltd.

both kitchens and bathrooms. In the 8-storey block the flats are designed with pram storage in the halls, but additional external pram stores are supplied for the tenants of the maisonnettes.

There are gas heated drying cupboards in both blocks, accessible either from staircase landings or access balconies.

The normal pattern fuel bunkers are installed to each flat, with a capacity of approximately 5cwt and with internal access from the kitchens.

Standard pattern dust chutes are also provided in both blocks and a dry riser main alongside the chute in the 8-storey block.

Great care has been taken throughout to provide adequate garden works, but, at the same time, reasonable privacy and protection to the site, with its close proximity to a busy arterial road. It is hoped, at a later stage, to grow a selection of trees and shrubs, and provide plants both for the private flower boxes and those which have been designed as part of the boundary wall.

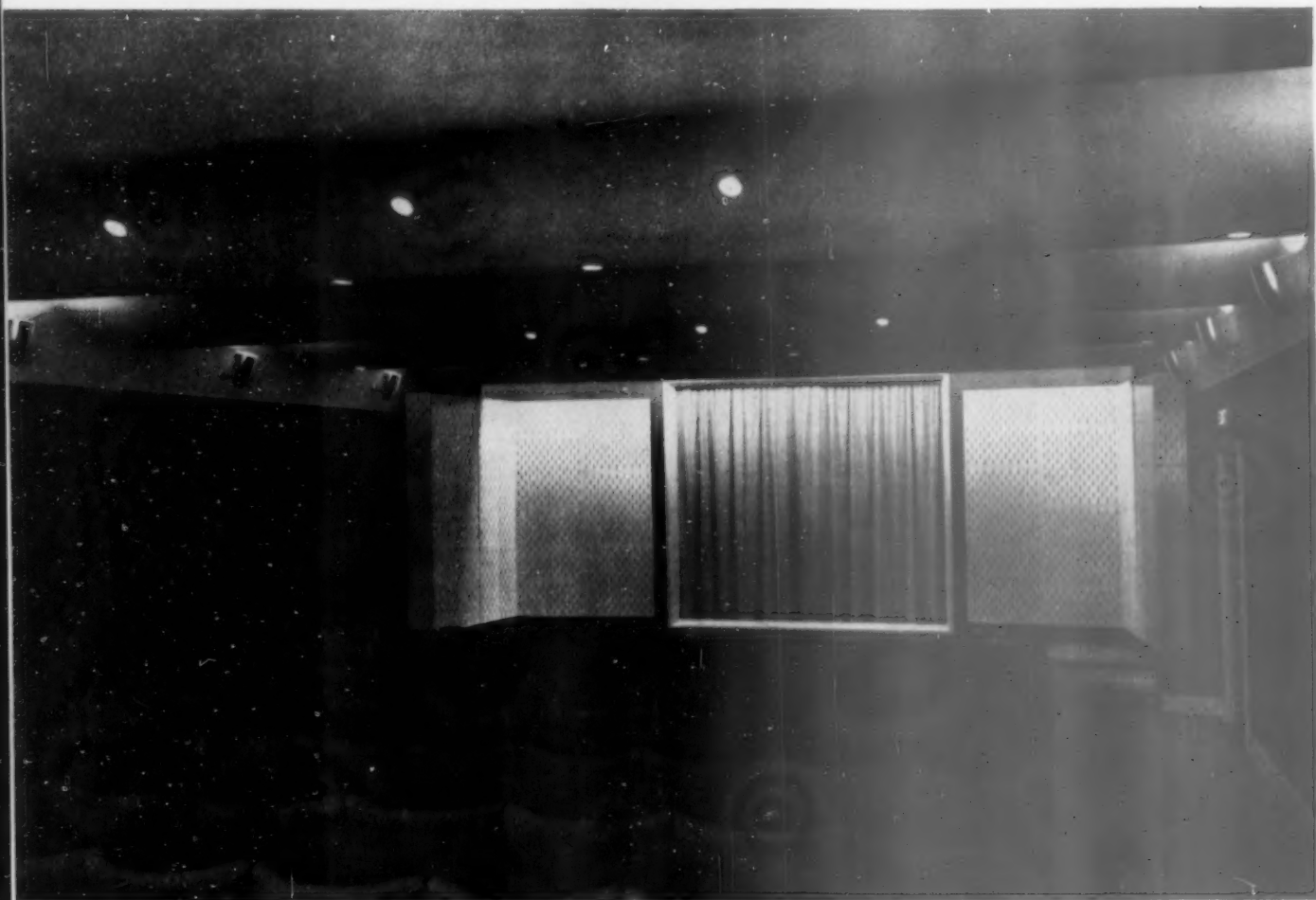
The approximate cost of the scheme was £89,400.

Above: Balcony details, South-East face of flats.

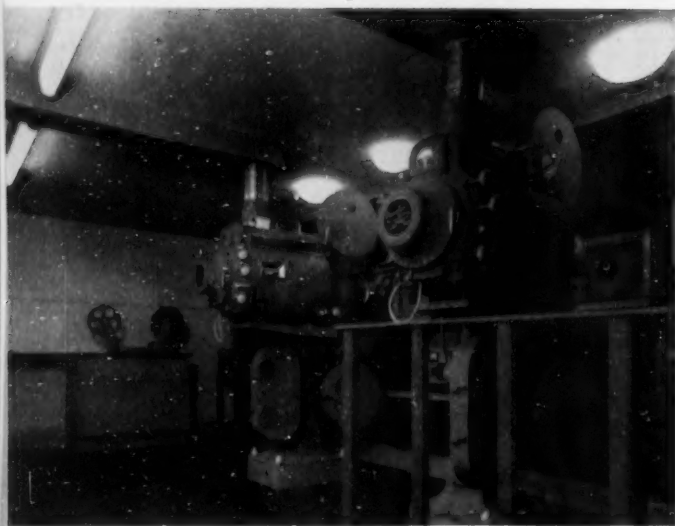


Close view of maisonnette balconies on the South-West elevation.

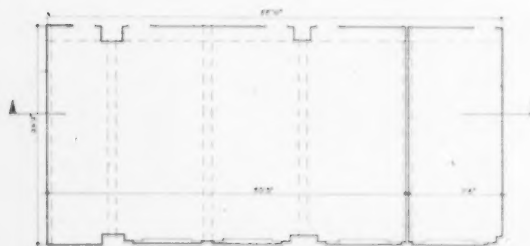
# ***Private Cinema for Shell-Mex & B.P. Ltd.,***



*Below, the projection room. Above, the auditorium looking towards the screen.*



SECTION



PLAN



# Shell-Mex House, London

architects: W. S. HATTRELL &amp; PARTNERS

THE problem presented for solution was the provision of an auditorium containing 102 seats, and the construction of a projection room within the area of two existing offices. The larger office being 43ft 3in long by 23ft 2in wide between piers, and the smaller 11ft 4in long by a similar width. The dimension from the floor level to the soffit of the cross beams was 9ft 0½in.

The longitudinal external wall on the east contains four large steel casements obtaining light from an internal well faced with faience, and the west wall consisted of a terra cotta pot partition with borrowed lights over, forming one wall of an internal corridor serving suites of adjacent offices. The cross wall between the two rooms concerned was of 4½in terra cotta pots.

The auditorium had to be designed for use as a lecture theatre should the need arise.

It was obvious that the projection room should be planned in the area of the small office, the auditorium in the larger office, with the screen and proscenium occupying the space between the piers in the south portion of the larger room.

The initial plan provided for the entrance to the auditorium to be through one pair of doors in the south of the west corridor wall, with another pair giving directly into the auditorium designed within the proscenium, thereby creating a sound lock between the doors. This arrangement, however, was not approved by the Clients who required the entrance to be from the north end opposite to the screen.

The plan was therefore amended by reducing the size of the projection room and obtaining an entrance in the north-west of the corridor wall, but with only one pair of doors.

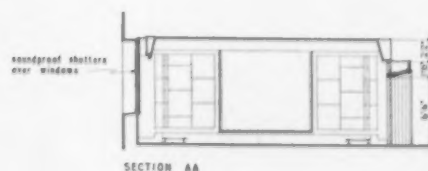
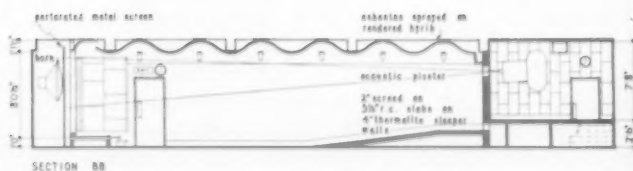
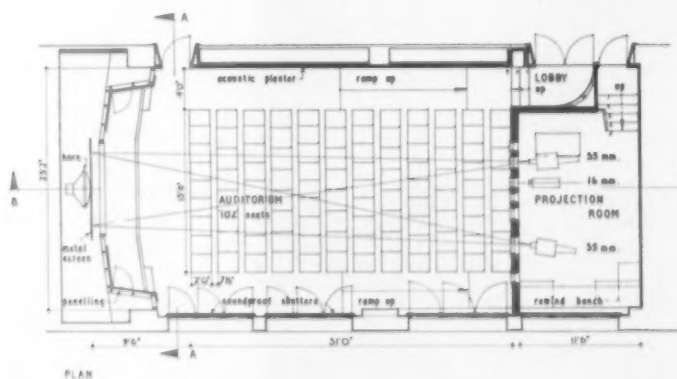
## Projection room

As the height of the auditorium was limited, the projection room is elevated only 2ft 6in above floor level on sleeper walls of thermalite blocks, and seated on 3in × 1in compressed cork pads to prevent the passage of vibration. The void thus formed is utilized to contain the air extract ducts from the auditorium, the inlet and extract ducts from the projection room and the various services. Sound filters are provided to the fans.

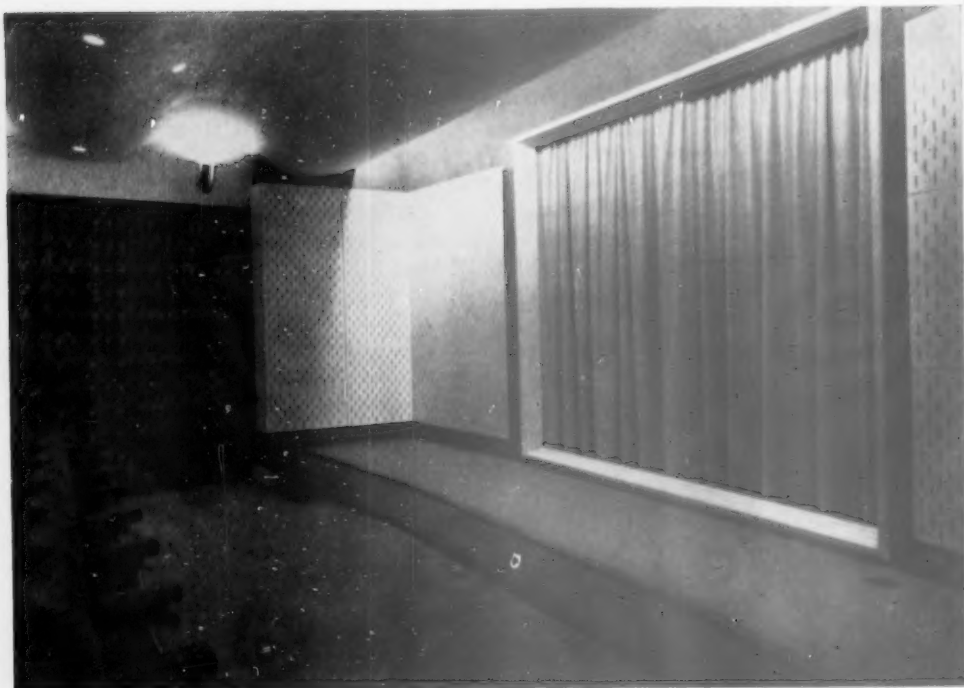
The existing pot wall (diagram p. 203) is perforated for the ports and clad with 1in fibreglass sewn sheet with an internal lining of 3in thermalite. The interior of the steel windows is covered with sound-resisting casements consisting of 3in × 1½in framed shutters lined externally with asbestos cement sheet, internally with perforated hardboard and filled with 1½in fibreglass sewn sheet. The port wall is plastered with acoustic plaster and the remaining walls and ceiling lined with acoustic tiles. The floor finish is blue ruboleum with non-slip aluminium Ferrodo filled nosings to the stair treads. The floor traps (diagram p. 204) are designed of sufficient density to limit the passage of sound and have chamfered arrises to which cork is fixed in lieu of the more usual rebated seating.

[Continued on page 203]

Plans and  
sections  
before and  
after



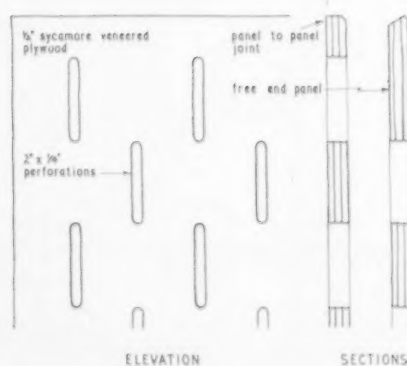
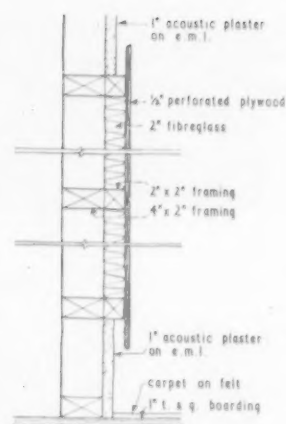
**Private  
Cinema  
for  
Shell-Mex  
& B.P. Ltd.**



The undulating ceiling of the auditorium is sprayed asbestos on rendered metal lathing. Perforated stage panelling is backed with fibreglass.

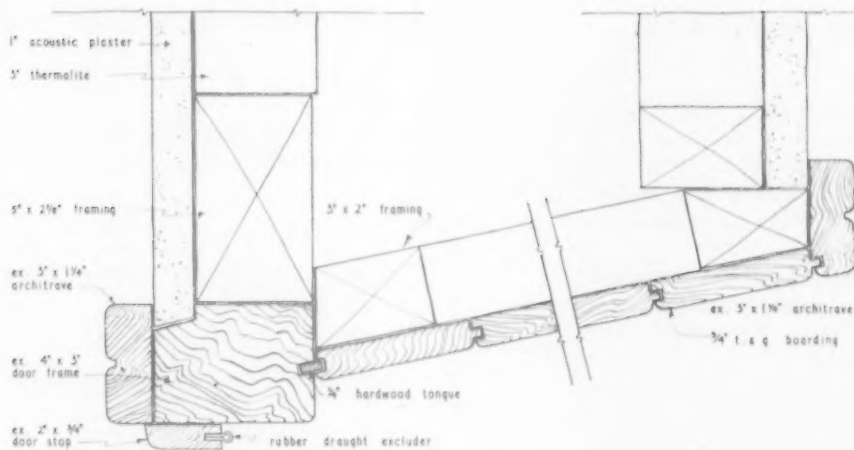


Details  
of stage  
panelling  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  F.S. and  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  in = 1 ft.



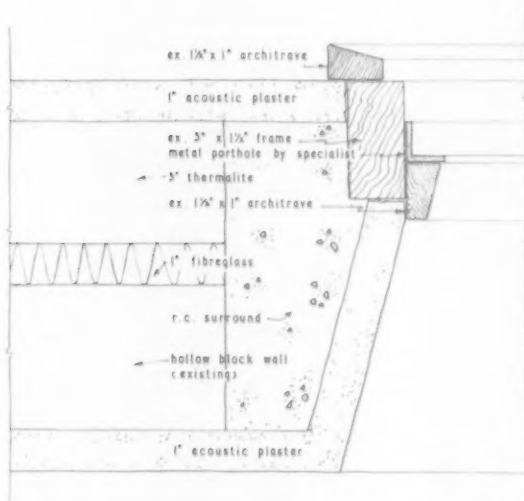
ELEVATION

SECTIONS



Door frame  
and lining  
Scale:  $\frac{1}{4}$  F.S.

Main entrance doors to auditorium and door to projection room. Linings are painted white. Handles are in Sycamore.



Projection port. Scale:  $\frac{1}{4}$  F.S.

Continued from page 201]

#### Auditorium

A ramp towards the projection room wall enables the first five rows of seats to be slightly elevated.

In order to prevent the penetration of sound into the main corridor the existing borrowed lights were removed and the openings filled with thermalite blocks. Voids were formed between the inner face of the piers and the corridor wall constructed of thermalite blocks, behind which are hung fibreglass sewn sheets.

The three steel casements were covered internally with shutters of the same design as those mentioned



for the projection room. The projection room wall is lined with acoustic tiles while the corridor wall is plastered.

The ceiling consists of sprayed asbestos on rendered metal lathing to an undulating section. The framed proscenium is rendered with acoustic plaster, and the perforated Sycamore panels thereon are backed with fibreglass sewn sheets. The nosing to the platform and the steps thereto are of mahogany.

The auditorium ceiling is painted in lilac, the west wall in forest green, the north wall in white and the east

## Private Cinema for Shell-Mex & B.P. Ltd.

wall covered with forest green curtains with a white hand printed design.

The architraves, linings and skirtings are white and the doors in forest green with sycamore pull handles and push plates. The kicking plates are finished in satin chromium plating.

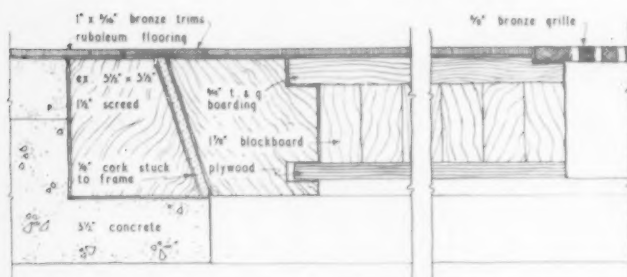
Lighting is by means of satin finished side lamps and starlight fittings in the ceiling. The auditorium carpet is mustard in colour, and that to the stage is grey. The seats are covered in grey material.

### General Contractors

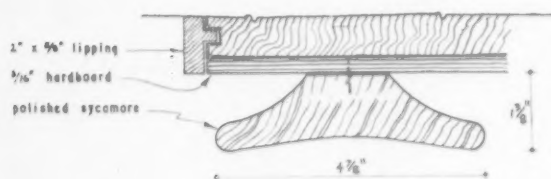
General Building and Theatre Equipment Ltd.

Curtains: Liberty & Co., Ltd. Decorating: Clark & Fenn, Ltd. Electrical Installation: F. H. Wheeler & Co., Ltd. Joinery: Trollope & Colls, Ltd. Lighting Fittings: Troughton & Young, Ltd. Projectors and Sound Equipment: Frank J. Brockliss, Ltd. Seating and Furnishings: General Building & Theatre Equipment, Ltd. Ventilating: G. N. Haden & Sons, Ltd.

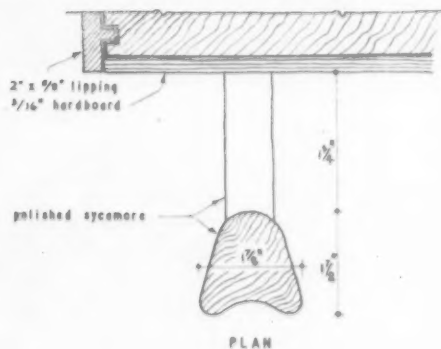
The main entrance from inside. The telephone recess is shown in detail at the bottom of the page. Scale 1 in = 3 ft.



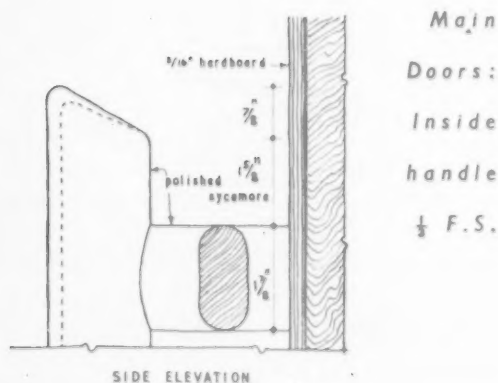
$\frac{1}{4}$  F.S. Detail of floor trap



Main Doors: Outside handle.  $\frac{1}{8}$  F.S.

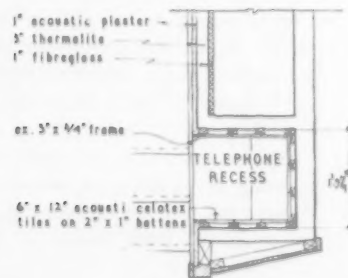


PLAN



SIDE ELEVATION

Main  
Doors:  
Inside  
handle  
 $\frac{1}{8}$  F.S.





## LIBRARY NOTES

*The Age of Inigo Jones*

By James Lees-Milne, Batsford, 42s.

This book is authoritative and an admirable gatherum of worthwhile information. It is well produced and very well illustrated. Yet its effect, perhaps because the very standard of its production leads us to expect a continuous work of historical literature, is uneven, a little disappointing, and at times unaccountably dull. The author himself admits that the book "may not be read as literature" and adds, over-modestly, that it is "frankly a reference book, without being a work of scholarship." The volume is, indeed, of most value as a quarry of information here gathered together for the first time in convenient form; one's main criticism of some of its more severely factual passages is that Mr. Lees-Milne seems not to give quite enough "probability rating" to some buildings which seem virtually certain, though without the clinch of archive evidence, to be by Jones or some of the other named designers whose work is here discussed. He also uses a little space unnecessarily, in the section on buildings said to be by Jones, on Ford Abbey where Sir Edmund Prideaux' alterations were quite certainly *not* by the already deceased Inigo. So then we have long passages, somewhat dry at times, where buildings by these varied seventeenth-century artists are discussed, exhaustively, *seriatim*, and with much descriptive detail reinforced by illustrations. But then one finds long passages of straight biography and narrative whose literary quality and flow are fully enough to make us wish for a more cursive treatment of the whole subject.

Another slight blemish in the book is its title. One may fairly speak of the "Age of" the Palladians, or of Wren, or of Adam (on which Mr. Lees-Milne himself has written) but not, I think, of Inigo Jones. The author himself seems to belie his own title when he writes of the majority of Carolean country houses which were not built under Court influence, that "we see them only as the ultimate expression of the age over which the distant figure of Inigo Jones was breathing a faint flavour of the new classicism." The truth is that Inigo Jones, a brilliant, versatile innovator whose close followers combined with him to produce a considerable body of highly important architecture, was a somewhat isolated pioneer whose fulfilment only came, in transmuted form, in the days of Lord Burlington, the Whig Supremacy, and the Age of Reason. Jones himself, though in the end he was employed by Lord Pembroke who had come down on the Parliament side of the political fence, was in spirit and

sympathy part of the society which was defeated and in part submerged by the passions of Civil War. How limited was the acceptance in England of the Palladian, Genoese, and other Renaissance ideas of the Jones school (not Age) is well shown in such picturesquely mixed and muddle-headed buildings as the chapel of Brasenose and the gateway of Stanway—and Stanway has its smaller equivalents, at Chelvey or West Harptree to quote two Somerset examples, all over the western counties and elsewhere in England.

Once we are past this book's misleading title we can settle down to what is an excellent compilation of architectural history, description, and brilliant reference to Continental influences, by no means all of them Palladian, which went to the making of the school. Jones himself emerges as a wide-ranging virtuoso, as an unswerving devotee of the classical styles he had seen in Italy, and as a man who must have been unpleasant to deal with and who was, in personal character, vastly the inferior of Wren. It is of great importance that he, like Vanbrugh, did not take to architecture till he had shone in another métier (in Jones' case the décor, not the text, of the drama), and that Jones was always in essence an architect without any of the professional training that even a master mason of those days would normally have had. The descriptive section on Jones' known, or possible, works (numerous attributions are relegated to their properly "unproven" limbo) contains several good points which will come as a novelty to many. For instance, the unexecuted Star Chamber design anticipated that of the Banqueting Hall, Jones did a classical screen for Winchester Cathedral whose disappearance is a sad loss, and the Queen's Chapel at Marlborough House has the oldest Venetian window in England.

To my mind the most interesting parts of the book are where Mr. Lees-Milne shows how important, alongside early Palladianism and in particular in the area round Stamford, were the influences of Rubens, the Genoese *palazzi*, and French classicism on the small *coterie* of those who started the process of stocking England with genuinely Renaissance architecture. There are excellent, comparatively short sections on the life and works (or possible works) of such "continuator" of Jones as Webb, Mills, and Pratt; one fully realizes, both from the text and from two tragic photographs, the dreadfulness of the loss suffered when Pratt's Coleshill was gutted and then pulled down. The book ends, a little scrappily, with a passage on Carolean furnishing and on certain aspects of the cavalier way of life. Here, again, one sees how ill the word "Age" applies to a period when most gentry were quite happy to live unpolished

lives in mediæval, or stylistically mediæval houses like Montacute or Barrington Court.

BRYAN LITTLE

*School Design and Construction*

By J. A. Godfrey and R. Castle Cleary. Published by The Architectural Press. Price 36s.

THE literature on the subject of school building in this country is not extensive. Apart from articles in the professional and technical press, the main source of information on current aims and methods has been the Ministry of Education's series, started a little over four years ago, of Buildings Bulletins. These are, for all their informality and frequent insistence that none of the guidance is mandatory, an organ of a Government Department, and remain limited in one or two directions in consequence; moreover, since their chief purpose is to spread news about fresh problems and solutions of them, they are not definitive but in some ways almost ephemeral.

There was, therefore, great scope for an independent textbook on the subject, and the work of Messrs. Godfrey and Castle Cleary is most welcome. The subjects treated include the choice of sites and layout of playing fields and playgrounds, the planning of accommodation for nursery, primary and secondary schools, the functional requirements which are basic to construction and design, forms of construction both traditional and non-traditional, finishes, and furniture and equipment. All this is prefaced by a brief historical review, first of the educational system of the United Kingdom, and then of the design of school buildings. The book is copiously illustrated by photographs and line drawings, and has a useful bibliography. Throughout it there are deferential references to the Ministry of Education bulletins, and the Standards of School Premises Regulations, 1951, are frequently mentioned—to the extent, indeed, of quite elaborately tabulating some of their provisions.

The authors allow themselves only passing references to the fixing by the Minister of Education of uniform limits of cost for buildings of maintained schools, and no description of the method used for that limitation; still less any detailed comparison between plans dating from before and after the economies. One direct effect of the economies has been dual use of circulation space and, in many plans, virtual elimination of corridors on upper floors; so much is recorded (p. 198), but there is no discussion of any alternative savings or of possible educational disadvantages; indeed, the authors almost appear (p. 124) content

to hear that a new educational philosophy has been brought into being by the extreme compactness of current planning. After the first chapter, which traces the history of schools in this country from as far back as the Middle Ages, educational information becomes incidental and is scattered throughout the book; thus the chapter on secondary schools, after the briefest possible description of secondary education as it is to-day, takes the main planning elements of secondary school buildings one by one, and then each type of specialist room in alphabetical order, without discussing interrelation of the subject taught in them. However, it would need not one but several volumes to deal adequately with the immense variety of secondary schools, ranging from under 100 to over 2,000 pupils in size, and the authors are to be congratulated on the amount of information of general application that they have included.

In the section of the book that is devoted to functional requirements the discussion of natural and artificial lighting will be particularly valuable. The review of structural systems rightly emphasizes that many school buildings will be subjected in the future to internal adaptation. Near the end of the book comes the information that even for the proper design of pupils' tables and chairs not enough anthropometric data have yet been collected. The quotation may serve to illustrate not only the fluidity of present ideas about the design of schools, but also that the source of so much variety and intricacy in the subject is that varied creature, the human child. A building can indeed aid his physical and mental development, and this book should be a valuable help in furthering that end.

E. W. W.

## The City of Man

By Christopher Tunnard. The Architectural Press. 50s.

THIS is a very American book, and that is perhaps as near to the truth as a book review can get. In 424 pages, Christopher Tunnard has produced a kaleidoscope of the city out of which emerges, through chapters of history, sociology and aesthetics, his own view of civic design.

"Emerges," advisedly, for the whole book is imprecise, like so many other manuals of urban living which have come from America in the last decade. To an Englishman, accustomed to the utter clarity of a book like "Oxford Observed" this seems a maze of neologisms among which one has to grope anxiously for a clear opinion or a concrete example; all the conclusions seem to be presented elliptically. However, if the book is not altogether coherent, it is perfectly consistent, and one finishes it with a clear idea in one's mind of the type of city Mr. Tunnard wants, though hard put to select the crucial sentences or paragraphs which put it there. Throughout, he expounds clearly the idea of a city rather

than an overgrown town, and the most important fact about the book is that he really believes in and likes the city, wishing not to dilute but to intensify it. This is the only practicable solution, but it is refreshing to see it stated as an ideal rather than a necessary evil: may it bear fruit before we in England commute to one city from the overspill of the next.

His views on design could be summed up as a plea for putting the art back into architecture and the artist back into the town planning office. This bisection of his stalking-horse causes him to say simultaneously sensible things about planning and silly things about architecture. That townscape is an art needs saying over and over again, and that painters and sculptors should have more outdoor commissions, and that civic planners should integrate beauty with the drains—and not, as now happens, build the drains and then try to apply botched beauty in municipal gardening.

Some of Mr. Tunnard's exemplars are worrying—he has Haussmann's Paris on the brain—and the integration must be much more fluid and impermanent than he visualizes if we are not to create a set of untouchable museum pieces, but fundamentally he is right all the way.

Putting the art into architecture, however, is transmuted into an attack on functionalism and the demand of freedom of styles for all. This is dangerous, and although Mr. Tunnard assures us that he is not upholding period revivals, it is unlikely that others will maintain the fine distinction between a set of styles, all genuinely felt, to be used according to mood, and mock-Gothic, neo-Georgian, etc., for their own sweet sakes. Another romp of style-picking is a poor exchange for a rational standard of design, of our own time, against which good architects can be great and bad ones unobjectionable.

The historical chapters, especially those dealing with "Company Towns" and Utopian communities, are fascinating and complete in themselves—they could be abstracted from the book to serve as an excellent introduction to a study of the growth of towns. But for words to assess the whole book one is driven back to its American character, for it reads curiously like a complement to one of their immense novels of city life, taking the same panoramic view of man's environment as they do of man himself. It is almost a stream-of-consciousness planners handbook.

IAN NAIRN.

## The Bridges of Britain

By Eric de Maré. Batsford. 42s.

ONCE asked an intelligent layman to say which modern building in London he admired most. "Waterloo Bridge," he replied! This new book of bridges is a very handsome and satisfying production, and should have a

great success. The author has all the right qualifications; as a waterman he has explored hundreds of miles of river and canal; he is a very good photographer (one of his photos used in this book stood out at the A.A. members' exhibition of photographs, namely that of the Forth Bridge); as an architect he is competent to describe materials, construction, and the engineering problems involved. The historical survey covers a wide span of centuries bringing us up to 1945, and it is hard to say which are more fascinating, the earlier stone bridges that leap so cleanly across their obstacles, or the Victorian engineering ventures of the great period of Rennie, Brindley and Telford, which make one ponder on the decline in subsequent bridge design and the apparent refusal of British engineers to emulate Maillart's superb work in Switzerland.

Mr. de Maré reminds us of the time that went into the building of earlier bridges. For instance, the 12c bridge of Peter Colechurch over the Thames in London took 33 years, and Rennie's London Bridge took seven. We are also reminded of the great responsibility shouldered by bridge engineers—"Pontifex" of our schooldays—"The Board of Trade affirmed 'that the bridge had been badly designed, badly constructed and badly maintained.' Four months later Sir Thomas Bouch died, his spirit broken." Obviously not a profession for incompetents. One of the most attractive of the 156 illustrations is the photograph of the suspended footbridge at Cambus-o'-May in Aberdeenshire, and I regret that space has not been found for the miniature one over the Ouse at Lewes. I hope this delightful book helps to strengthen public opinion in support of better design of foot, and other, bridges, for as Mr. de Maré says "most of them are beautiful," and why should they not continue to be so. N. M.

## Home and Environment

By Walter Segal. Leonard Hill. 42s.

THIS second and enlarged edition of Mr. Walter Segal's original publication of five years ago adds some more studies from his "larder" of ideas. He expresses defiant opposition to those short-sighted and unrealistic attempts to reduce post-war housing standards and warns architects of the risk of being forsaken if failing in their duty to make a stand against such retrograde policies.

That controversial subject—the three-storey terrace house—is an additional study. Tests applied show that for the same accommodation and light angles six more houses per acre can be had by using the two-storey house and better internal planning, that is, for the small frontage house. At least, that is so for the small house but it is possible that the same arguments would not be valid when comparisons are made for the larger type of house. The advantages of introducing flat development in high

density areas to release more ground space for the two-storey small house are shown which certainly cannot be denied when the alternative means crippling the amenities for the latter.

An interesting suggestion has been well illustrated for a simplified central heating system for use in the present-day small house but its idea of confining hot and cold water supplies, boiler flue stack and airing cupboard in one vertical unit has advantages in initial cost, efficiency and maintenance which might also apply to larger houses.

The "T" and cruciform blocks of flats are examined but difficulties in regard to privacy against overlooking become apparent, while orientation is not considered as satisfactory as the orthodox central staircase type serving two flats per landing. An additional appendix illustrating a layout for 500 families together with open spaces, shopping centre and community buildings completes a book full of highly imaginative ideas amply explained by numerous line sketches and diagrams.

### Middlesex

By Sir Clifford Radcliffe, C.B.E., D.L. Evans Brothers, Ltd. 10s 6d.

THE vast field of activity and responsibilities that is the lot of metropolitan and rural Middlesex is here condensed within some 230 pages of text and illustration. It cannot fail to be of interest to technician and lay public alike for the lucid exposition of such a complex field of activity.

The administration of the county and its growing scope in the affairs of the community are reviewed from early times when landowners and the Justices of the Peace were held responsible for law and order to the formation of County Councils in 1888. From then until the present day its authority as an elected body is outlined. A chapter recites the history of the Council's Guildhall and clears the mystery, for many, of its existence in the London County Council administrative area. The reader will applaud the action taken by the Council in preserving Parliament Square from a 9-storey office block on its west side which would have prevented the recent great improvement so much admired.

The field of interest is enlarged to include a broad picture of the growth from earliest times to the present day of one of London's most important "home" counties. It paints vivid pictures, assisted by excellent photographs and diagram plans, of life in pre-Roman and post-Roman times through the ages to the present day. It touches upon the general appearance of the county, the homes and meeting places of the people—all under the influence of a growing metropolis on their doorstep and which has now absorbed the greater part of it.

So far as the author records, the tremendous absorption of the rural countryside of the last 30 years by roads and buildings has left behind many quiet stretches of the Thames,

golf courses and other recreational facilities including places for mass interest in sporting events at Twickenham, Wembley and Kempton Park. Murmurs from across the Thames which threaten further absorption of such retreats for housing sites might well lead to a similar threat to those in Middlesex.

This picture is varied and highly coloured by the activities of important historical persons from the leader of a peasants revolt to warring kings or from famous authors to church dignitaries, all of whom changed in varying degrees, the course of national history and left their mark behind in buildings. As a result the county abounds in historic houses. An extensive extract from the report and inventory of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments serves as a guide for exploring expeditions.

The last part deals with the public services and offers a commendable summary of modern developments of interest including the most controversial of all these services—Town and Country Planning. This great service was introduced to make good the ravages of "... that great outburst of materialism which was called the Industrial Revolution." To-day, however, it is still unable to serve such a positive function owing to the unsolved financial and administrative problems. Meanwhile Town and Country Planning, as a public service, can, at best, serve only a negative and unpopular role in dealing with day-to-day applications. "It can be seen" the author states "that public interest and support are more essential in this work than in many other local government functions."

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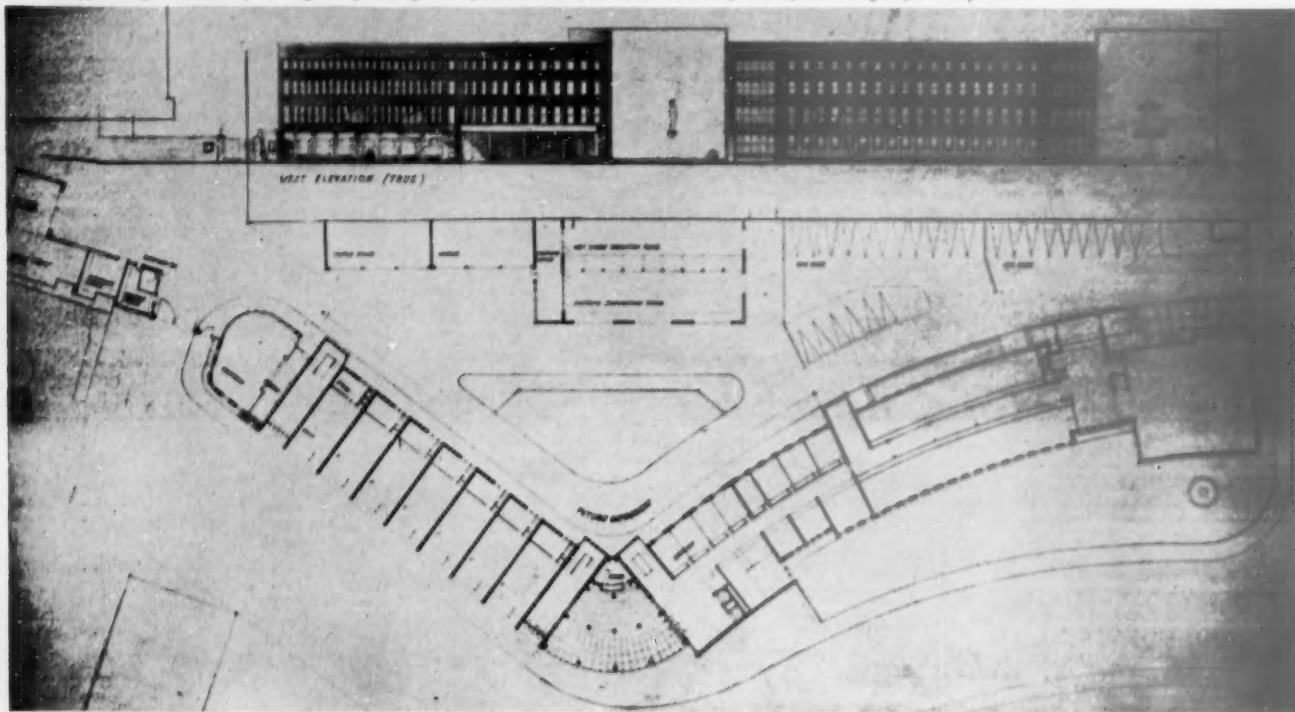
### BOOKS RECEIVED

- Architect's Standard Catalogues, Edition 12, Volumes 1 to 4.* Published by The Standard Catalogue Co., Ltd.
- An Atlas of End-Grain Photomicrographs for the Identification of Hardwoods.* Published by the D.S.I.R. by H.M.S.O. Price 12s 6d.
- Application of Mastic Asphalte, Flooring and Paving.* Published by The Natural Asphalte Mine Owners' and Manufacturers' Council.
- Principles of Builders' Estimating,* by R. G. Bailey. Published by Crosby Lockwood. Price 7s 6d.
- Built-in Furniture,* by Arthur R. Brown. Published by Crosby Lockwood. Price 12s 6d.
- Symposium on Building for Agriculture.* Published by the Architectural Association.
- Building Science, Vol. 2,* by P. A. C. Reid. Published by Longmans, Green and Co., Ltd. Price 10s 6d.
- Early Melbourne Architecture, 1840 to 1888.* A Photographic Record, compiled and edited by Maie Casey, Joan Lindsay, D. A. Casey, J. R. Freeman, T. D. Freeman and A. R. Henderson. Published by the Oxford University Press. Price 40s.
- English Weathervanes.* Their stories and legends from Medieval to Modern times, by A. Needham, F.R.S.A., A.M.C. Published by Charles Clarke, Ltd. Price 10s 6d.
- General Purpose in Farm Buildings.* Published by The British Standards Institution. Price 2s 6d.
- The Housing Estate Garden,* by S. J. Poole. Published by W. H. and L. Collingridge, Ltd. Price 7s.
- Italian Gardens of the Renaissance,* by Shepherd and Jellicoe. Published by Alec Tiranti, Ltd. Price 25s.
- Modern Gardens,* by Peter Shepherd. Published by The Architectural Press. Price 36s.
- Municipal Engineering Administration and Organisation,* by Rodney S. Offord. Published by Contractor's Record, Ltd. Price 25s.
- The New Small Houses,* by F. R. S. Yorke and Penelope Whiting. Published by The Architectural Press. Price 25s.
- A New Map of the World.* The Trystan Edwards Homalographic Projection. Published by B. T. Batsford, Ltd. Price 5s.
- Pencil Techniques in Modern Design,* by Atkins, Corbellotti and Fiore. Published by Reinhold Publishing Corporation. Price 66s.
- Mies Van Der Rohe,* by Philip C. Johnson (2nd Edition). Published by The Museum of Modern Art, N.Y. Distributors, Putnam and Co., Ltd. Price, cloth \$7.50, paper \$3.50.
- Reprinted Pieces, Relating Mainly to the Building Trade and Surveying Profession,* by Thos. V. Hutchins. Printed by Richard Madley, Ltd.
- Spon's Architects' and Builders' Price Book, 1953-54, 79th Edition.* Price 25s.
- Victorian Architect, Life and Work of William Tinsley.* Published by Indiana University Press. Price \$5.
- World's Contemporary Architecture, Volume 5—Germany.* Edited by Yuichi Ino and Shinji Koike. Published by Shokokusha Publishing Co. Inc., Tokyo, Japan. Price \$5.

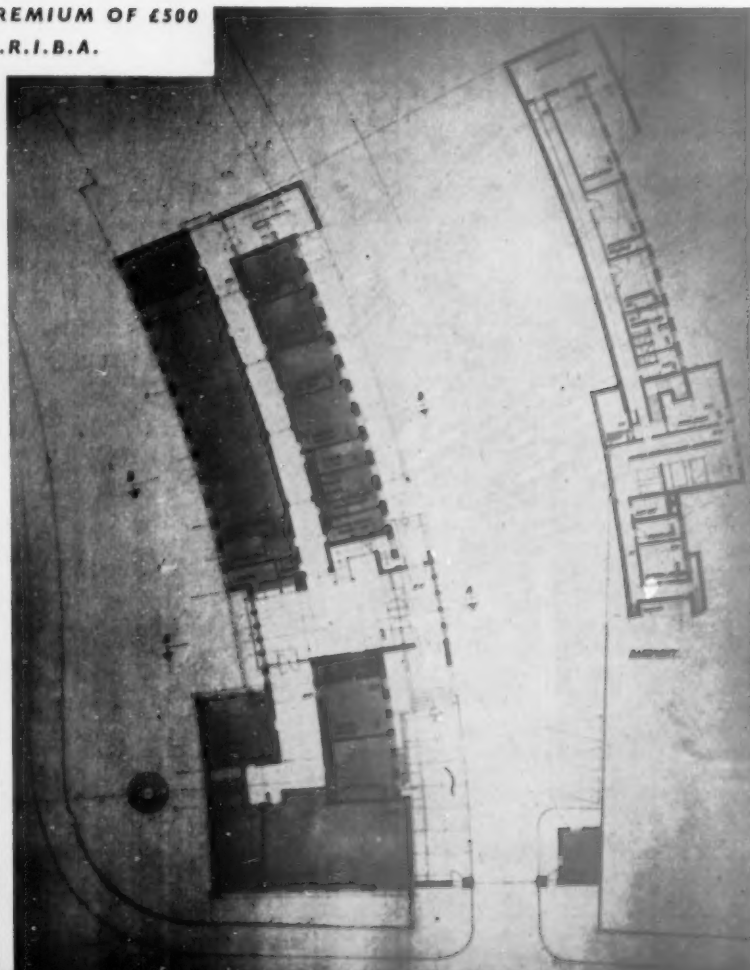
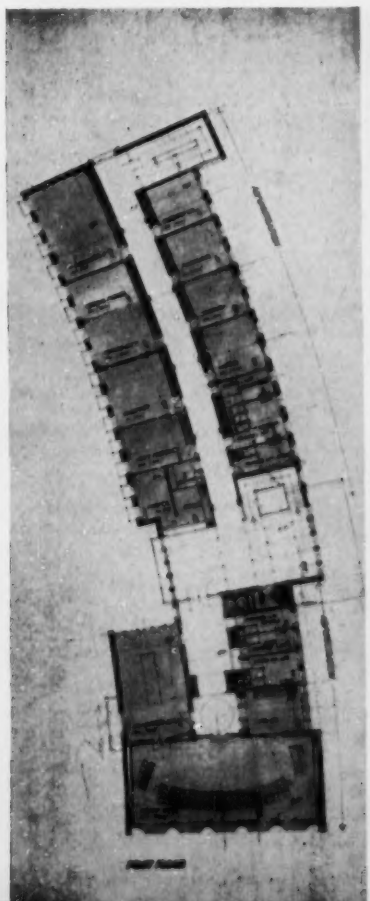


# COMPETITION FOR DUBLIN PORT AND DOCKS BOARD BUILDING

Twenty-eight designs were submitted in this competition, which was limited to architects practising in Ireland. The assessors, Messrs. John F. Fairweather, Vincent Kelly and Alfred E. Jones, F.F.R.I.A.I., stated in their report that the standard of design reached by competitors was disappointing, particularly as regards planning. They were unable to recommend any one of the designs for acceptance.

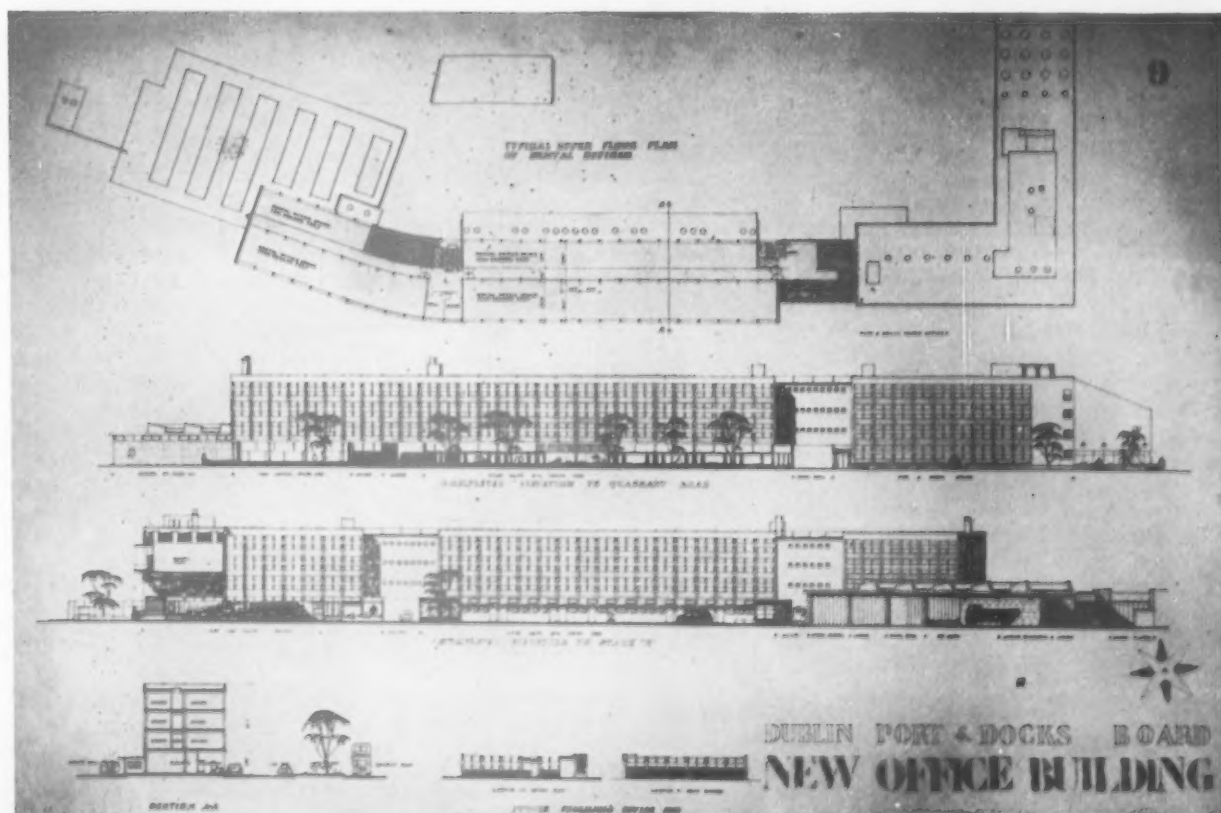
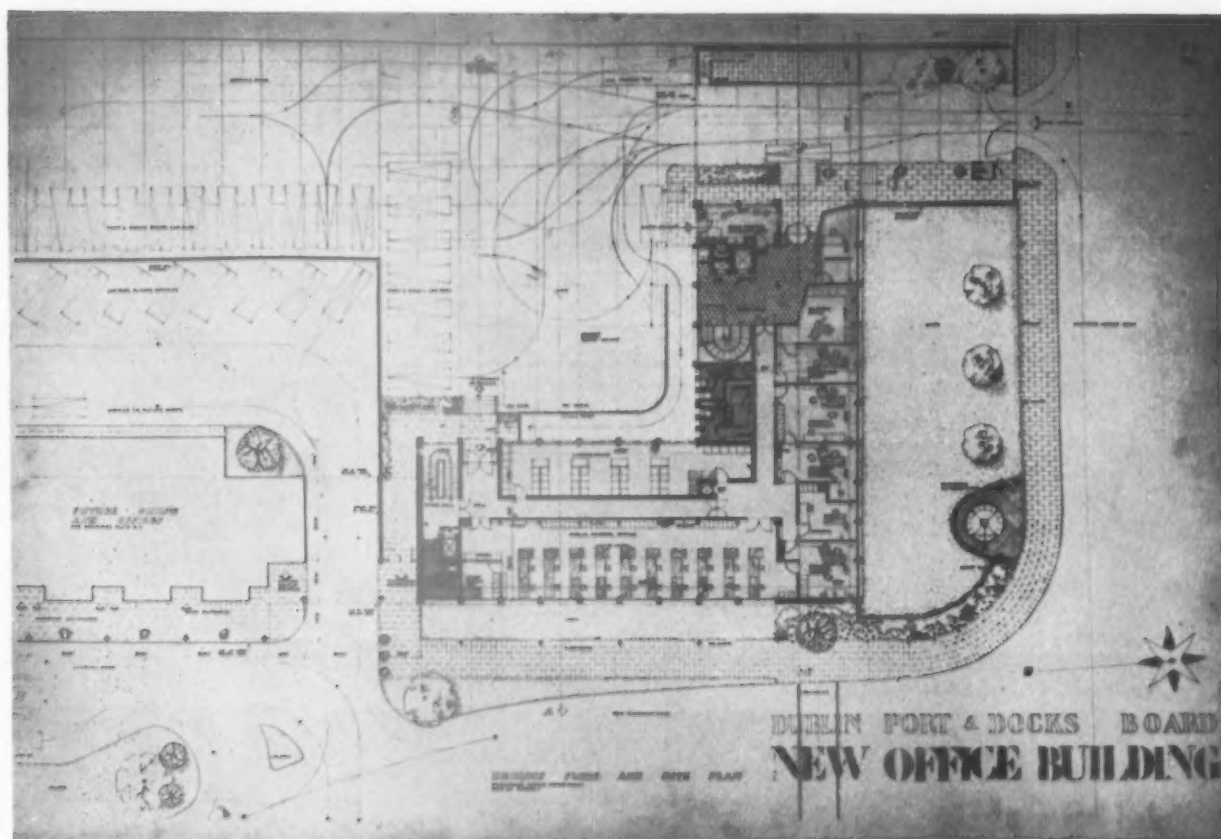


DESIGN AWARDED SECOND PREMIUM OF £500  
BY ALAN HOPE, F.R.I.A.I., A.R.I.B.A.



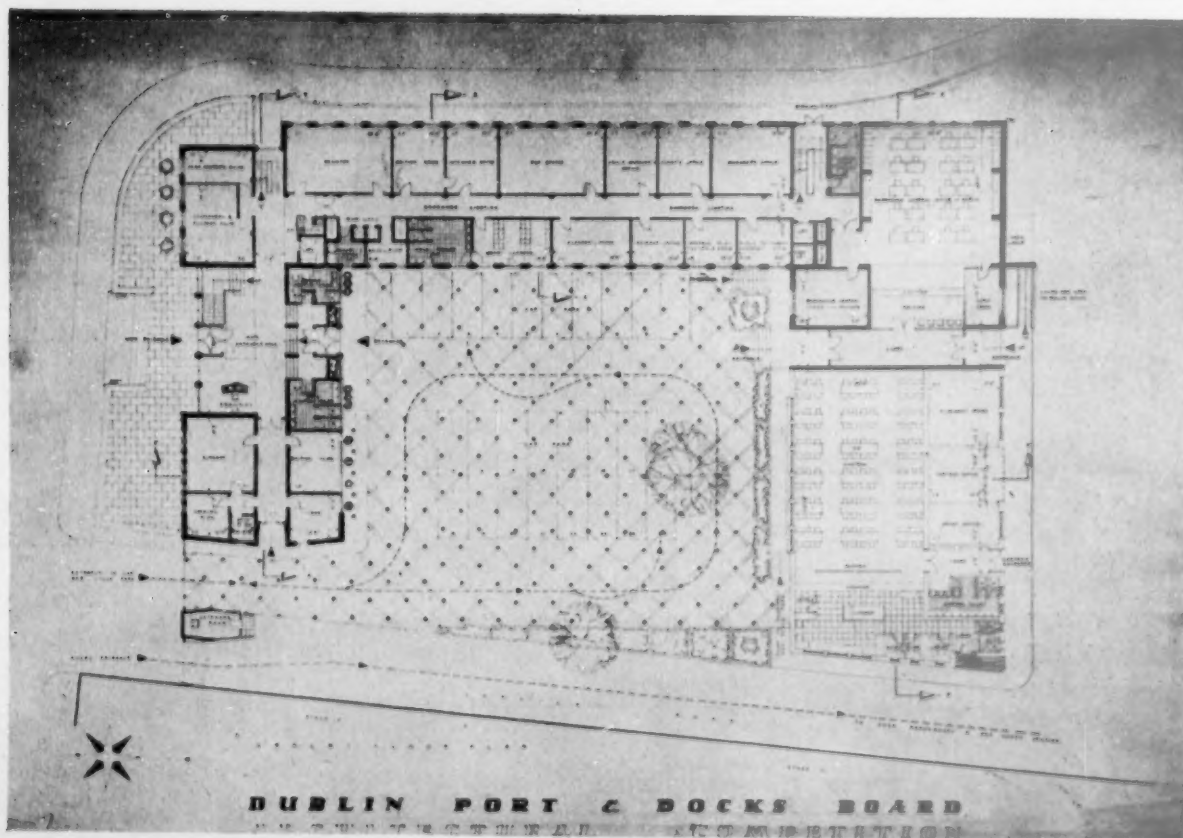
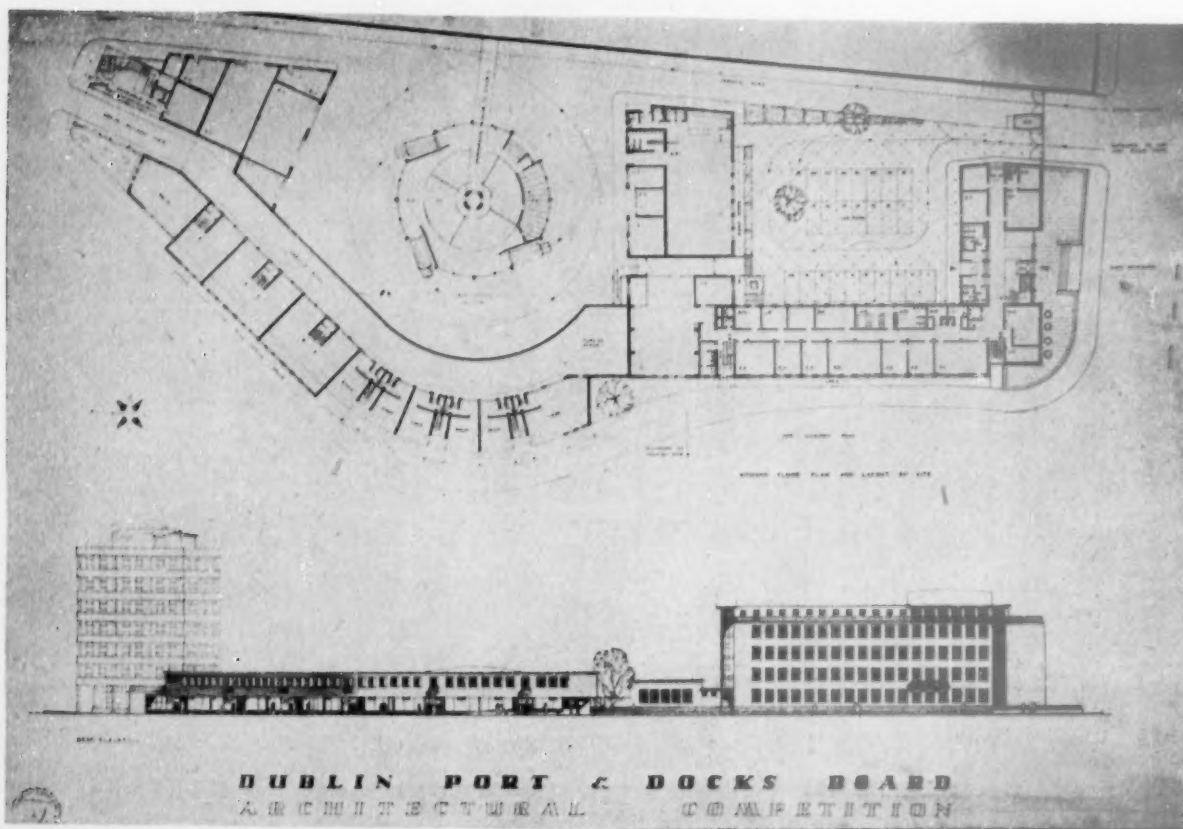


DESIGN AWARDED THIRD PREMIUM OF £200  
BY LIAM BOYLE, B.Arch., A.M.T.P.I.



DESIGN AWARDED FOURTH PREMIUM OF £100

BY G. P. O'BRIEN, B. MORRIS, D. P. McCULLOUGH AND F. C. BROWNE



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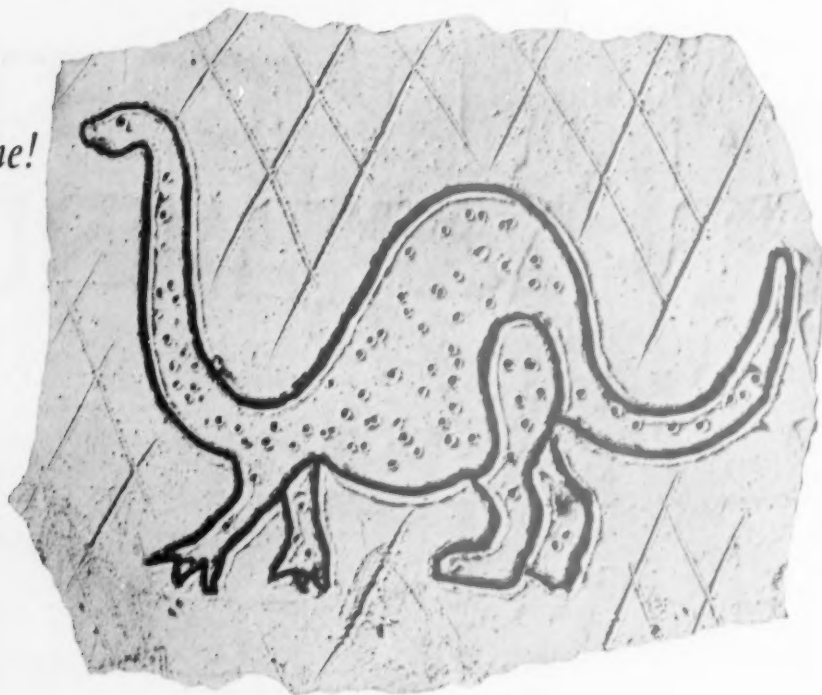


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## The R.I.B.A. Prize-giving and Criticism, 1954

A REVIEW BY M. E. TAYLOR, A.R.I.B.A.

"I HAVE never heard a better criticism." Those words were spoken by the President of the R.I.B.A., Mr. Howard Robertson, M.C., A.R.A., S.A.D.G., after Mr. Basil Spence, O.B.E., A.R.A., A.R.S.A., had delivered his criticism of the work submitted for the R.I.B.A. prizes and studentships. I concur wholeheartedly with this summing up of Mr. Spence's masterly criticism.

I have had the pleasure of listening to critics, on the first Tuesday in February, for many years now and I have never listened to a criticism of students' work which I have enjoyed so much.

Mr. Spence is without doubt a student, an architect and an orator—no mean achievement. How easy, with these capabilities, for him to have fallen into the trap of clever oratory. How easy to be clever with words. Critics have been known to fall into this trap. It says much for Mr. Spence's appreciation of his task that he did not. His well-chosen words were full of meaning for the students who attended 66, Portland Place for this annual event.

I, like the R.I.B.A. officials, thought there would have been a larger attendance. I was also sorry to see that the older generation did not design to become students even for one evening. I was, however, pleased to note that Scotland was well represented to hear both Mr. Spence and Professor R. H. Matthew.

Mr. Spence opened his criticism in the form of a question. Why, he asked, was not the high standard that was displayed in the designs submitted maintained when the student entered into private practice? Anyone who has had the pleasure of studying Mr. Spence's executed works will, I feel sure, agree that he has maintained the high standard of design for which he was renowned whilst a student at Edinburgh College. He exhorted students to cling to their beliefs and to nurse them as precious jewels.

"I would like to say at least a word or two about every set of drawings submitted. I think this is right because these sets represent the finals of hotly contested competitions." How very rarely has a critic taken this line. All too often critics have said a few flattering words about the winning design and dismissed the remainder en bloc with a few sarcastic words. When you have spent many hours preparing your final drawings and then travelled to the R.I.B.A. to hear why the Jury felt your design was not worthy of receiving the first prize, it is very discouraging, to say the least, to be treated in this fashion. I would not have been surprised if Mr. Spence, in his student days, had not received such treatment on the numerous occasions he attended

the annual criticism, and was therefore determined that if ever he reached the eminence of critic he would treat the students as he would wish to be treated.

Never have I heard a critic be so helpful. Not only did he explain where the design failed but he was not forgetful in praising the good points which impressed the Jury. I feel that the majority of the also-rans must have left Portland Place with a far greater satisfaction from their efforts than when they received the official notification stating that they had been unsuccessful.

This year it was the Tite's turn. I wondered where the critics were who desired to see the end of this study of the architecture of the Italian Renaissance. I venture to suggest to them that every one of the fifteen finalists not only thoroughly enjoyed themselves but benefited by the exercise.

The subject set was "An Italian Lakeside Garden—laid out to celebrate the discovery of a hillside spring near a great Italian Villa." As Mr. Spence said: "What a lovely subject—what a marvellous job if it happened in real life!"

The key to this design was the use of stairs, landscaping and waterscaping. It was obvious from the esquisses on exhibition that the entrants had thoroughly enjoyed the subject and had entered with great enthusiasm. What a pity the vitality which was displayed in the esquisses was lacking in the finished drawings. Nevertheless, the drawings were a pleasure to study and the Jury had my sympathy in choosing the winner.

May I offer my congratulations to the winner and also the unsuccessful for a very worthy exhibition which I am sure Sir William Tite would have felt upheld the high traditions of this prize.

The subject set for the Soane was similar in character to the Tite. It was calculated to stimulate the imagination of the entrants. Unfortunately only one entrant let his imagination loose in the final design. The subject was "St. Paul's stairs and terrace—the river approach to the Cathedral."

The esquisses showed great promise and the Jury must have been extremely disappointed with the final results. One is tempted to ask if the Schools do not lay too much emphasis on the esquisse and too little on the final design.

I, like the Jury, thoroughly enjoyed the winner's design. It was full of character and imagination, which could not be said of the remaining thirteen designs.

Why were there only three entrants for the Pugin Studentship? To my mind, this is the "Rome" of the

measured drawing prizes but it is shunned by the majority of students. I blame the Schools for this attitude of mind. Why try to teach design when the majority of students have little appreciation of how the designs of the past were derived? The last generation of architects produced some brilliant men and many admit that their success in design was to a large extent derived from the study and measurement of buildings of previous generations. Mr. Spence is without doubt a brilliant designer who would admit that his study of the Gothic materially assisted him in his practice.

I had to smile at his remark: "In my day you had to fight for these prizes." Mr. Spence in 1931 submitted a beautiful set of drawings for this prize which, in any normal year, would have been a certain winner. Unfortunately he found himself competing against one of the best sets of drawings ever submitted for this prize, by Mr. G. H. White, who took as his subject buildings in York. This did not prevent Mr. Spence adding to his drawings and being a successful Pugin winner in 1933.

It must, therefore, have been with mixed feelings that Mr. Spence viewed the three sets of drawings submitted. The winner, Mr. Rowberry, added to the prestige of this prize by his excellent set of drawings of studies of Gothic work in the Cotswolds, Worcester and Tewkesbury. I can do no better than quote Mr. Spence's remarks: "... the measured work much in freehand, the latter being of excellent quality representing admirably and sympathetically the spirit of Gothic and the three-dimensional form of the structure. The use of colour showing its application in glass, wood and stone, is to be commended, while the details of gargoyles, dripstones and grotesques have caught the bucolic humour of the mediæval mason." It was obvious from Mr. Rowberry's notes and drawings that he had thoroughly enjoyed himself. He is proposing to continue his studies in the Yorkshire area—an area rich in smaller works, perhaps not so refined as in the south but relying on excellent proportions.

Mr. Rowberry has been encouraged in his studies by Mr. G. M. Harper, who was a Pugin winner in 1948. I hope all winners and those interested in Gothic work will encourage students to submit work for this prize.

I was very interested in the drawings submitted by Mr. C. F. Stell, of St. Winifred's Well, Holywell, Flintshire. These were in ink. I do not remember anyone submitting drawings in ink since Donald McMorran in 1925. I would suggest Mr. Stell studies Mr. McMorran's technique of ink drawing and try again. He would do well to

try recording the same building in free-hand. This should assist him to obtain more feeling into his drawings.

There were four entrants for the Owen Jones—all full of interest. Mr. Notman, the winner, submitted, in addition to critical notes on Owen Jones' "Grammar of Ornament," two groups of drawings. One sheet was a collection of about 20 sketches of buildings in Denmark. These sketches covered a variety of subjects too numerous to mention but all exquisitely executed. It was obvious Mr. Notman had enjoyed his studies.

He informs me that he is proposing to visit Colonial architecture in Carolina and contemporary design in New York and Philadelphia.

There were seven entrants for the R.I.B.A. Essay Prize. The winner, Mr. Peter Collins, wrote on "The Architectural Doctrine of Jacques Francis Blondet." Why do applicants not read the instructions? Year after year theses are submitted. The primary requirement of an essay is its literary quality, which unfortunately was lacking in the majority of those submitted.

The title of the Junior or Banister Fletcher Essay was "The Relevance of History to Quality in Building Today." It is, therefore, not surprising that there were only four entrants. Unfortunately none was of sufficient merit to gain the award.

Why was there only one entrant for the Grissell Medal? Is it the prize-money or are the students not interested in construction? The programme could not be the cause, as candidates could submit their own programme. Mr. M. P. Bates submitted an excellent set of working drawings well laid out and equally well notated.

As is usual, the sketches submitted by students of public and secondary schools were of a high quality throughout. As Mr. Spence commented, there are many architects with A.R.I.B.A. behind their names who could not draw as well as these budding architects.

Unfortunately Mr. Spence followed the lead of past critics and did not comment on the postgraduate prizes. Congratulations to Major R. A. Jensen, Director of Housing to the Borough of Paddington, who is the first recipient of the Rose Shipman Studentship. He is proposing to extend his previous research, which was into High Density Housing. The major part of his research will be undertaken in Scandinavian countries, Germany and France. I feel sure his research will be of benefit to the people of Paddington.

The Andrew Prentice Bequest for the study of Spanish architecture was awarded to Mr. J. E. D. Sanderson. Mr. Spence envied Mr. Sanderson, for as he commented, fancy being paid to visit Spain where sherry was 2d a glass and a bottle of champagne cost 2s.

Mr. Lloyd Hughes, winner of the Hunt Bursary, proposed to study housing development in Holland.

I would like to end on the same note

as Mr. Spence, who, like myself, feels that the competition for these ripe plums is not fierce enough. £3,000 for distribution each year and so few entrants. Study this year's prizes and do not leave it to the other fellow; have an attempt yourself. You will never regret it, even if you are not successful.

## R.I.B.A. FINAL EXAMINATION THESES

### A Decline in Quality: Some Suggestions for Achieving a Requisite Standard

THE purpose of the final thesis is to discover not only whether the candidate has something to say but whether he can say it in good, clear English. Every probationer and student will be aware that a qualified member of the profession, be he private practitioner or salaried architect, has as often to express his ideas by means of the written word as by means of the drawing. Both means of expression must therefore be equally lucid and unambiguous.

Theses submitted for the Final Examination during the past two or three years have revealed that too often marks have been lost by the commission of certain common faults—some serious, others less so—with a resulting deterioration in the average quality of the theses submitted. It is felt therefore that it may be of assistance to future candidates if these prevalent faults be brought to their attention now in the hope that, by avoiding them, candidates will be enabled to submit theses of a more acceptable standard.

It may be said at once that most of the faults in question could be avoided if candidates were to read, and take note of, the memorandum published by the Royal Institute for their guidance when preparing for these examinations. The notes in this memorandum have been carefully drafted and their every word is meant to be taken to heart. The memorandum, however, assumes—perhaps not unreasonably—that, by the time they come to sit for their Final examination, candidates can at least write English without committing gross errors of spelling and punctuation. In fact, this has too often proved to be a quite unwarranted assumption. Faulty spelling and punctuation is perhaps the most usual—and least necessary—cause of mark deduction. There is no excuse for this.

Other points which demand mention are briefly given below under three main headings:—

#### (1) Subject Matter

- (a) The subject matter for a thesis, however specialized, should be directly related to some aspect of architecture and in its treatment this relation must not be lost sight of.
- (b) For most subjects one week's research "in the field" is worth many weeks' study in a library.
- (c) Try to avoid covering unneces-

sary ground, i.e., do not describe in detail such accommodation or equipment in a specialized building as is commonly found in most buildings, e.g., kitchen, lavatories, etc.

It is usually safe to assume, too, that most architects—and certainly those who will read your thesis—know their Banister Fletcher as well as you do and do not need to be told, for instance, the difference between the Doric and Ionic Orders.

#### (2) Literary Style

- (a) Keep to the point. Make up your mind what you want to say and then say it clearly and concisely.
- (b) Avoid the use of "I," "my," etc. It is better to write impersonally.
- (c) Read "Plain Words," by Sir Ernest Gowers (H.M.S.O., 2s) and any of Eric Partridge's works on punctuation.
- (d) Acknowledge the source of all quotations.
- (e) Avoid slang, colloquialisms and cliché—above all such phrases as "What of the Future?"

#### (3) Presentation

- (a) Pages must be numbered.
- (b) Photographs not by the author and illustrations cut from magazines are acceptable *provided these are strictly limited to those cases where no other form of illustration is obtainable, e.g., where the subject is in a remote foreign country.* The sources of all such illustrations should be given.
- (c) Illustrations should not form the bulk of the thesis (see R.I.B.A. Memorandum mentioned above).
- (d) The outside cover should bear the title of the thesis and the author's name.
- (e) Bibliographies should be carefully compiled and should state—accurately and fully—the title, author and, if possible, the date and publisher of every work mentioned.

### Royal College of Art: Lethaby Lectures

The second lecture by the Lethaby Professor of Architecture, Professor Basil Ward, F.R.I.B.A., Hon. A.R.C.A., on W. R. Lethaby and his Times, will take place on Wednesday, March 17, at 5 p.m., in the Lecture Hall of the Royal Institute of British Architects, 66, Portland Place, London, W.1. Chairman: The Hon. Lionel Brett, A.R.I.B.A.

### Organization of British Architects' Conferences

The R.I.B.A. Council appointed a Standing Committee to consider British Architects' Conferences and to make periodic recommendations on the organization and programmes of future conferences.



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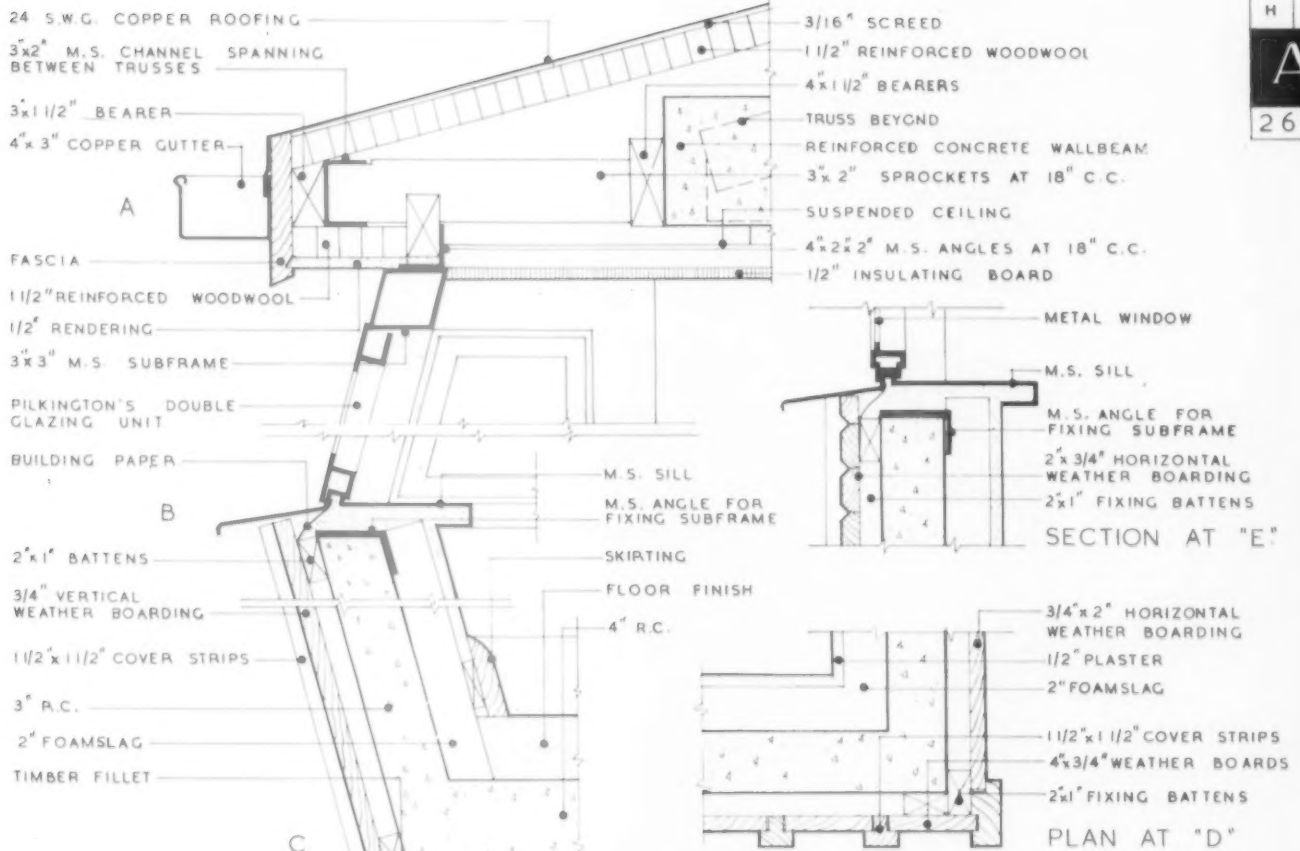
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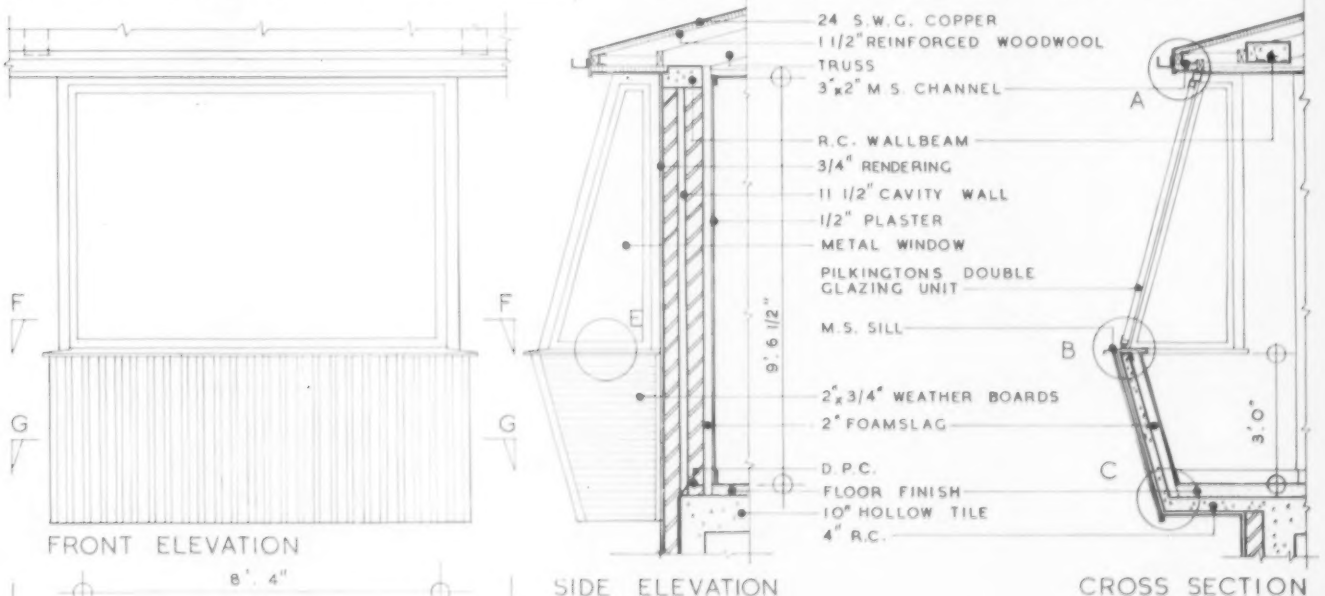






SECTION THRO' BAY

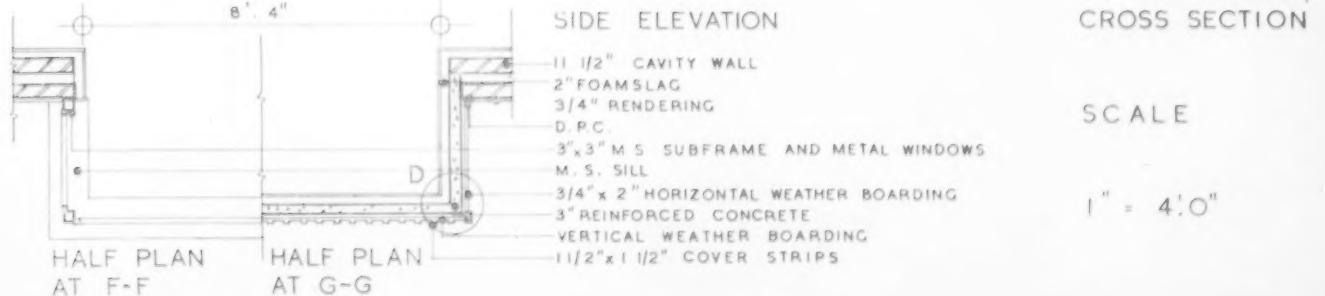
SCALE FOR DETAILS: 1 1/2" = 1' 0"



FRONT ELEVATION

SIDE ELEVATION

CROSS SECTION



HALF PLAN AT F-F

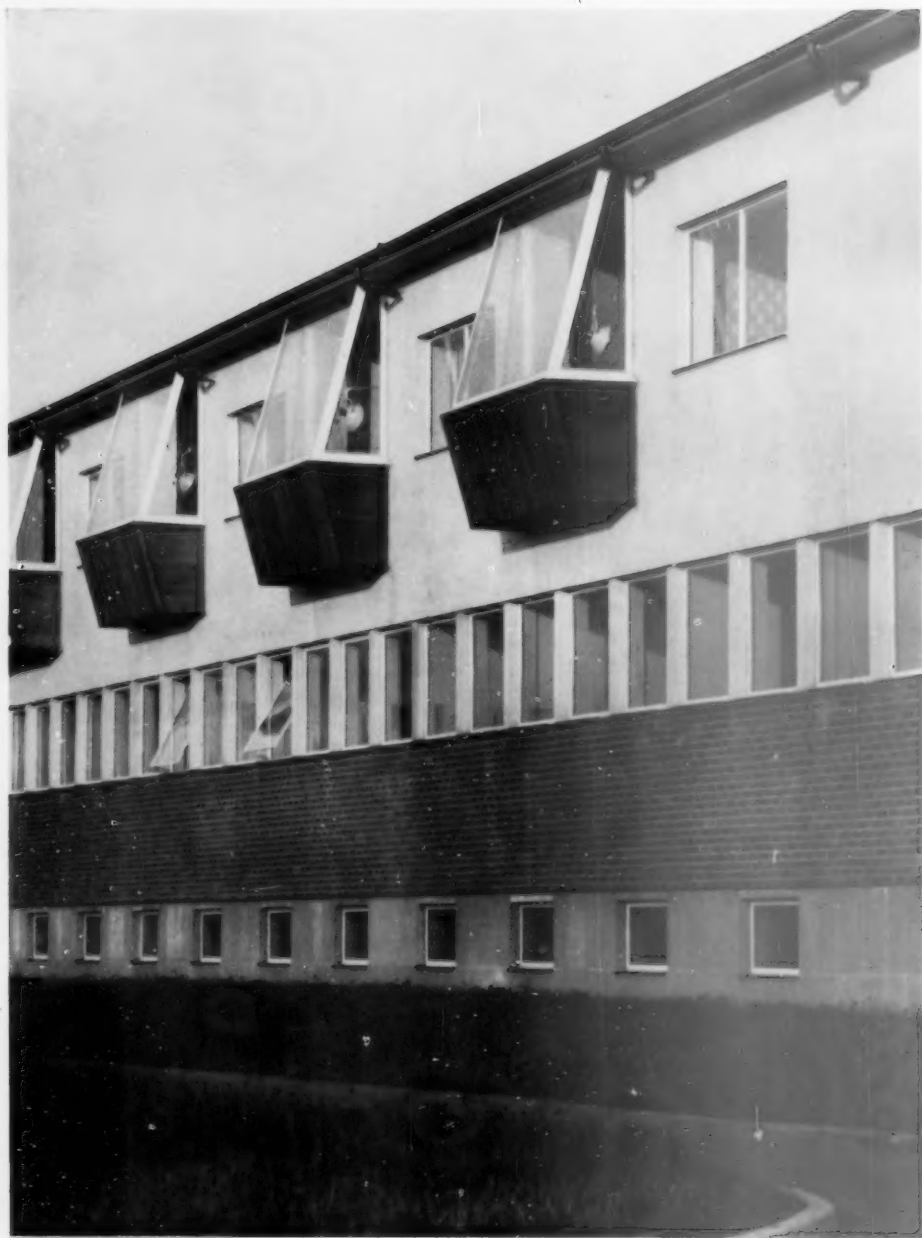
HALF PLAN AT G-G

SIDE ELEVATION

CROSS SECTION

SCALE

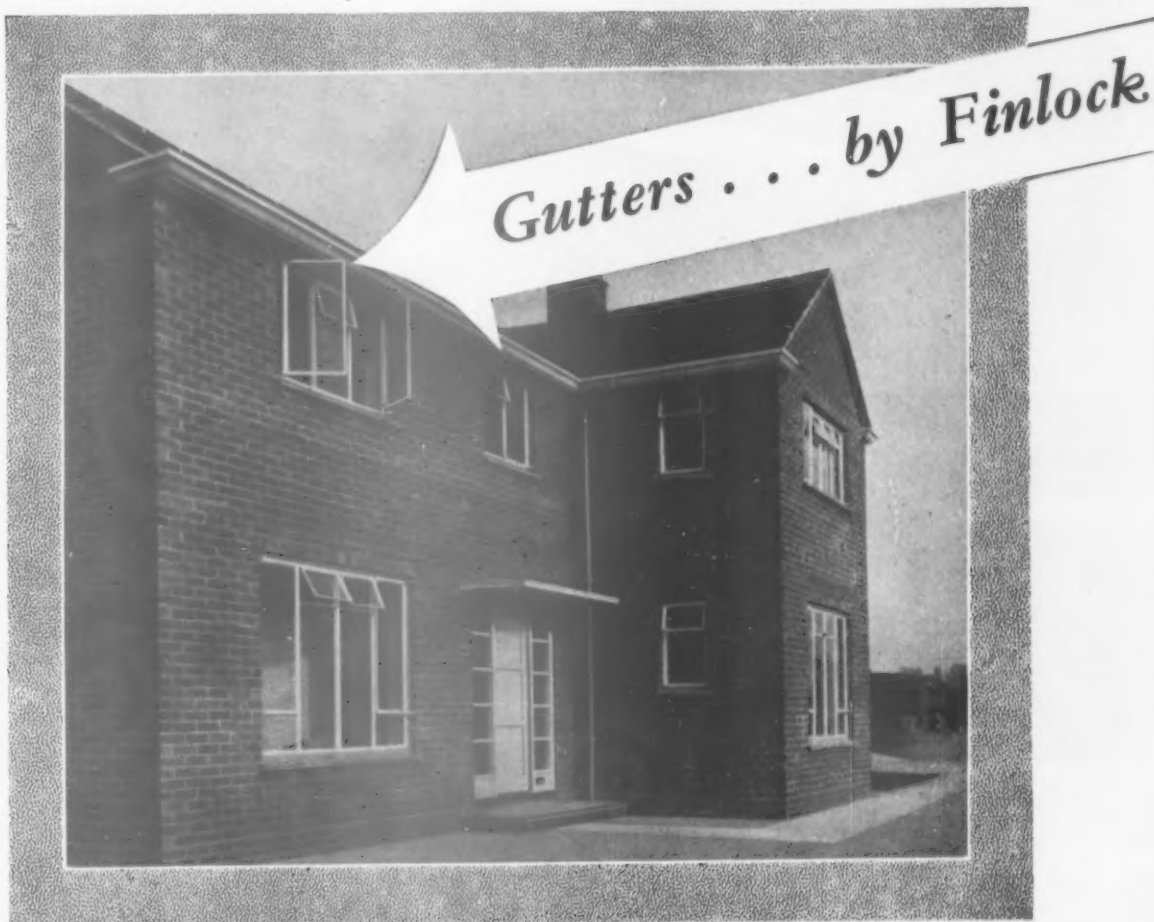
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## Winter Conditions

IT has been my misfortune to have to travel the country widely during the recent period of heavy snow and hard frost so that I have not only seen a wide variety of the effects on our buildings, and their plumbing systems in particular, but also I have had to listen to endless tirades on the inadequacy of the methods of our industry which permit of such widespread damage when the occasional hard winter occurs.

I fear that the industry is blamed for much that is not its fault as so often the causes of trouble are quite outside the control of those of us who design or erect buildings; there are the faults, and they are many, which arise from an unwillingness on the part of the customers to pay for adequate construction and installations, sometimes an unwillingness or even inability to pay for sufficient fuel and also the sheer carelessness in failure to take simple precautions. It should be possible to persuade the customers to incur an adequate initial expenditure on their buildings in order to install sufficient structural insulation and proper lagging to cold pipes if the replacement costs, which may arise from time to time, are made clear but their precautions are of little value if inadequate internal temperatures are maintained due to an inadequate system of heating or an insufficient expenditure of fuel.

On my travels I saw many examples of complete freezing of pipes, gas water heaters, W.C. pans and cisterns installed within buildings which might not have frozen if some simple action, such as leaving open the room doors, had been taken so that the heat available in the house had been allowed to penetrate into bathrooms and W.C.s. I also believe that in endeavours to economize fuel many hot water distribution pipes have been lagged which if they had been unlagged would have allowed a heat distribution into the house generally. Certainly to keep open the door of a linen cupboard in which there is a hot water storage tank, even if lagged, or a heating coil can make a great deal of difference to temperatures in upper floors of houses.

I saw two or three examples of trouble due to cold water pipes having been installed in the cavities of 11in outside walls; this seems to be an extremely foolish action, as not only is there a mere 4½in of brickwork as a protection and a bend at the eaves which is fairly exposed and quite impossible to lag if it was not lagged before the roofing was installed, but to replace a pipe in such a position when it has burst is absurdly complicated and costly. By far the most common causes of failure were, however, lack of lagging to rising mains and lack of protection of ball valves feeding storage cisterns.

So many waste pipes seem to freeze because two elementary precautions

had not been taken by householders. First, to allow taps to drip because a washer needs replacement not only causes almost certain blockage in frosty weather but is incidentally an offence under water supply regulations as it constitutes a wastage of water. If taps are dripping in cold weather and the washer cannot be changed, the plug should be placed in the waste-hole as this prevents the very slow discharge of water which so easily freezes and ultimately causes a complete blockage. But why do we continue to install outside waste and soil pipes when we need not? If these are planned within the building the extra cost is small and risks of freezing are greatly reduced. Incidentally, I did not expect that a one-pipe plumbing system installed externally could freeze up due to a very slow discharge from a dripping tap but now I know it can, having seen an example.

I came across a number of instances of lack of water due to the supply pipe from the main to the house having frozen. There appeared to be two general causes; first, the supply pipe was insufficiently buried in the ground, where a cover of at least 2ft, and better 2ft 6in, is a desirable and inexpensive precaution and secondly, the supply pipe having been brought up and into the building above the ground externally without proper protection instead of passing through the external wall or under the foundations well below the ground level and rising within the building, preferably on an internal wall.

My observations seemed to indicate that there was much more evidence of freezing of water pipes in houses having 9in solid walls than in those built with cavity walls, especially when the pipes are installed against the external walls themselves. This again makes me think that my remarks in earlier articles in this series that cavity walls are essential and that the inner leaf should be of materials such as lightweight concrete blocks were worthwhile.

Many tenants of houses with severe freezing of pipes and burst pipes seem to expect that their buildings should not fail to maintain water supplies when the building is left empty or unoccupied without fires for long periods during the day. I met one instance of a burst boiler to a hot water system which had been caused by lack of internal heat to the house, the occupier saying he could only afford to light the boiler once each week owing to the high price of fuel; the plumber told me that the internal room temperature of the kitchen of this house was only 17 deg. F when he was called in. I am afraid the plumber's bill would be the equivalent of several tons of fuel. The industry cannot be held responsible for installations which have to meet such conditions.

Nonetheless I feel sure we should

pay much more attention to lagging cold water pipes and "dead-legs" of hot water systems than we do. In fact in the light of what I have seen this year it seems desirable that every such pipe should be lagged except in those rooms where constant heating at such temperatures as will ensure under the most adverse conditions at least 34 deg F may be expected, which conditions seldom apply to sculleries, bathrooms, w.c.s and very particularly to outside w.c.s. I am almost inclined to suggest that we should be wiser to spend such money as is now used to lag hot pipes on the lagging of the cold ones as being of great value as a long-term money saving. In roof spaces every cold water pipe and expansion pipe to hot water and heating systems should be lagged because in nearly every roof they are liable not only to low temperature but to draughts caused by wind penetrating the roof especially at the eaves. The cost of such lagging is relatively small compared with one return visit of the plumber, let alone a return visit every cold winter.

The B.R.S. and M.o.W. published in 1948 and 1949 several leaflets on proper installations of hot and cold water systems and on each occasion drew special attention to lagging. I fear these have had only partial success as I have seen many recent installations which have disregarded this advice. I am afraid the advice has been ignored because of the small extra first costs to installations but a few burst pipes can so easily cost landlords and householders far more than has been saved. A particularly useful document was "Lagging" M.o.W. Advisory Leaflet No. 3 1949 (H.M.S.O.).

I have, incidentally, heard many complaints of the inadequacy of central heating installations during this very cold weather. I believe in many instances this is because initial calculations of heating surfaces have been based on outside temperatures of 32 deg. F instead of on 20 deg. F or even lower so as to provide the margin needed for really cold weather. I think also there are inadequate allowances made for both glass areas and air leakage at windows and doors.

I feel sure that with the enlarged window areas which are usual to-day much more attention should be paid to this effect on room heating in houses and flats. So much so that I feel we should give very serious attention to the production and increased use of either double windows or double glazing; my inclinations are towards double windows as I think it advantageous to have no surfaces of the windows continuous from outside to inside such as the sashes and glazing bars; I doubt if the cost is very different between double windows and double glazing.

It is obvious that whenever very cold weather occurs the building industry becomes more unpopular than

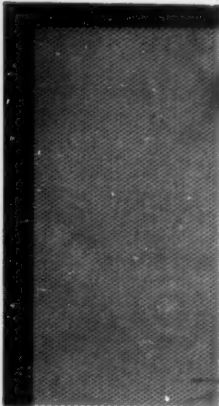
[Continued overleaf]

## MOSAICS

### FINISHES

#### LIGHT DIFFUSING

D 2/3



This illustration shows, actual size, what is claimed to be the smallest expanded metal mesh in the world. Known as Mini-Mesh, it is produced by the Expanded Metal Co., Ltd., of London and West Hartlepool. The mesh is produced in strips 6in wide, almost any length required can be formed in Brass, Aluminium, Copper and Stainless Steel. Although this material was designed for use as a filtering agent, its decorative possibilities cannot be ignored, both as a textured surface and as a medium for diffusing light.

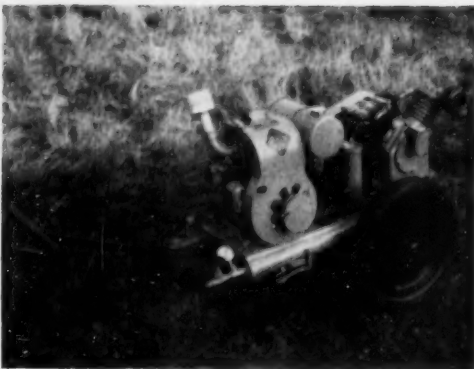


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#### ELECTRICAL ACCESSORIES

B 5/35

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### PLANT

#### SPRAYING

#### EQUIPMENT

E 15/2

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### STRUCTURE

#### ROOFING

A 10/7

A plaster laminate, reinforced with fibreglass, making a translucent sheet material suitable for roofing. Manufactured by Ashdowns Ltd., Eccleston Works, St. Helens, Lancashire, the material is known as Undulite. It is made to match the profiles of all the standard roofing materials, corrugated galvanized iron, asbestos and R.P.M. sheets, and is available in a range of translucent colours.

usual and in consequence it is incumbent on all its various branches to do what they can to eliminate the causes of complaint as far as is possible. The main actions which can be taken are first to plan our plumbing systems better to obviate cold weather risks—such planning should cost little—and secondly to persuade the building owners and occupiers to spend that little additional money to install safeguards such as insulation of walls, ceilings, roof spaces and supply tanks and also to lag the pipes which may come to harm. Some publicity that the industry can eliminate most of the sources of future trouble might be advantageous; this is needed during the spring, summer and autumn when plumbers are working at normal pressure and not in winter when they are often taxed to their utmost in putting right actual damage. We should also ask the aid of the journalists in those papers devoted to the home to "put over" the need for permanent precautions and their advantage and also what to do during cold spells to avoid the many troubles which are avoidable by simple acts by building occupiers to assist themselves to reduce their own discomforts.

More on this subject next week.

## DUTCH UNCLE

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As a result of research conducted by the Invisible Panel Warming Association\* it has been found that scrim need not be incorporated in the finishing coat of plaster under heating panels provided the following conditions are satisfied:

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(b) The plastering for the whole of the ceiling in the room concerned conforms to I.P.W.A. recommendations.

(c) An I.P.W.A. inspector is present when the plastering is commenced and is satisfied that the key, quality of materials, gauging and application technique are of the required standard.

When scrim is omitted, the cost of plastering is the same as that of ordinary two-coat work.

The following publications are available and obtainable free of charge on request: *Panel Heating: Some Practical Applications*: Booklet A.7.

*Heated Ceilings and Comfort*: Leaflet A.8.

*Heating of School Classrooms*: Leaflet A.9.

*Floor Finishes*: Booklet FP.1.

*Plastering*: Leaflet FF.50.

*Pugging and Rendering*: Leaflet PR.50.

*Suspended Ceilings*: Leaflet SC.1a.

*Panels in In-situ Slabs*: Leaflet CP.1.

*Installation of Panels*: Leaflet CP.2.

*Starting up Panel Systems*: Leaflet CP.4.

*Prestressed Plank Floors*: Leaflet CP.5.

*Wood Joist Floors*: Leaflet CP.6.

*Panels in Hollow Beam Floors*: Leaflet HB.1.

\* Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.

Notes below give basic data of contracts open under locality and authority which are in bold type. References indicate: (a) type of work, (b) address for application. Where no town is stated in the

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address it is the same as the locality given in the heading, (c) deposit, (d) last date for application, (e) last date and time for submission of tenders. Full details of contracts marked ★ are given in the advertisement section.

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### BUILDING

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**BARNET U.C.** (a) Sports pavilion, Grange Playing Fields, Ridgeview Close. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Ravenscroft House, Wood Street. (c) March 6.

**BEDFORDSHIRE C.C.** (a) Police houses at Podington, Ridgmont and Lidlington (1 house with office on each site); Eversholt (1 house with office and garage); Kempston (3 pairs of semi-detached houses). (b) County Architect, Shire Hall, Bedford. (d) Feb. 22.

**BERKSHIRE C.C.** (a) 3 classrooms, cloakrooms and lavatories, Tilehurst Calcot Primary School. (b) County Architect, Wilton House, Parkside Road, Reading. (c) 2gns. (c) March 8.

**BILLERICAY U.C.** (a) Park café Lake Meadows Recreation Ground. (b) Council's Surveyor, Council Offices. (c) 2gns. (d) Feb. 25.

**BIRMINGHAM C.C.** (a) (1) 20 2-storey dwellings at Slade Lane, Yardley Wood; (2) 17 2-storey dwellings at Metchley Grange Estate, Harbourne; (3) 15 3-storey flats at Edenbridge Road, Hall Green. (b) City Architect, Civic Centre, 1. (c) 2gns each contract. (d) Feb. 19. (e) March 22.

**BISHOP AUCKLAND U.C.** (a) 106 houses on north-western section of Woodhouse Close Estate. (b) Council's Architect, 50, North Bongate. (c) 2gns. (d) Feb. 20.

**BOURNEMOUTH B.C.** (a) (1) 12 pairs of houses, Kinson Estate; (2) 4 blocks of 6 terrace houses, and (3) 3 blocks of 4 flats on West Howe Estate. (b) Borough Architect, Town Hall. (c) 2gns each contract. (e) (1) March 16; (2) and (3) March 9.

**CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH U.C.** (a) Adaptation of former High Peak Hospital as Council Offices and installation of a central heating system. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, 27, Market Street. (c) 2gns. (e) Feb. 27.

**DARTFORD B.C.** (a) 86 dwellings and 8 garages forming part of scheme 6, Temple Hill Neighbourhood Unit. (b) Town Clerk, High Street. (c) 2gns. (e) March 8.

**DERBY B.C.** (a) (1) 2 shops and 2 flats, Enfield Road, Mackworth Estate; (2) 6 shops and 6 flats, Drayton Avenue, Mackworth Estate. (b) Borough Architect, Council House, Corporation Street. (c) 2gns. (d) March 1. (e) April 7.

**EAST RIDING C.C.** (a) Alterations at (1) Filey Police Station and (2) Hessle Police Station. (b) County Architect, County Hall, Beverley. (c) £2. (e) March 8.

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**EAST SUSSEX C.C.** (a) Fire station, Battle. (b) County Architect, County Hall, Lewes. (d) Feb. 20. (e) March 26.

**EAST SUSSEX C.C.** (a) Erection of Cuckfield Secondary School. (b) County Architect, County Hall, Lewes. (d) Feb. 20. (e) March 26.

**EAST SUSSEX C.C.** (a) Additional classroom and staff accommodation at Herstmonceux C. of E. School. (b) County Architect, County Hall, Lewes. (d) Feb. 20. (e) March 26.

**ERITH B.C.** (a) Construction in reinforced concrete of an underground report and control centre. (b) Borough Engineer, Town Hall. (c) £1 1s. (e) March 9.

**GRIMSBY B.C.** (a) (1) 37 houses, Grange Estate; (2) 31 houses, Fletcher Road Estate. (b) Borough Engineer, Municipal Offices, Town Hall Square. (c) £2. (e) March 2.

**\*HAVANT AND WATERLOO U.C.** (a) 32 houses, Purbrook Housing Estate. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices, 1, Park Road North, Havant. (c) 3gns. (e) March 8. See page 30.

**HAVERHILL U.C.** (a) 3-storey block of 8 flats and 2 lock-up shops, with out-buildings and a range of 7 garages, Beech Grove, Parkway Estate. (b) J. C. Myers, High Street. (c) 3gns. (e) March 1.

**HAYDOCK U.C.** (a) 38 houses, Church Road site. (b) Council's Surveyor, Council Offices. (c) 3gns. (e) March 22.

**HEYWOOD B.C.** (a) Extension of conveniences at Heap Bridge. (b) Borough Engineer, Municipal Buildings. (c) 1gn. (e) Feb. 27.

**HOLYWELL U.C.** (a) 14 pairs of houses, Meadowville Estate, with paths, fences, drains and branch water mains. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Town Hall, Holywell, Flintshire. (c) £2. (e) March 8.

**IPSWICH B.C.** (a) 20 houses and 20 bungalows in pairs and blocks, Maidenhall Estate. (b) Borough Engineer, 19, Tower Street. (c) 3gns. (d) Feb. 19. (e) March 25.

**LONDON—FINCHLEY B.C.** (a) Construction of new entrance gates, pay boxes, paving and fencing at the Finchley Football Club Ground, Summers Lane, N.12. (b) Borough Engineer, 294-6, Regents Park Road, N.3. (c) £2. (e) March 3.

**LONDON—WEST HAM B.C.** (a) (Contract No. 157) 30 maisonnettes at St. Thomas Road, E.16. (b) Borough Architect, 70, West Ham Lane, London, E.15. (c) 2gns. (d) Feb. 20.

**LUTON B.C.** (a) Erection of William Austin School. (b) Borough Engineer, Town Hall. (c) 2gns. (e) March 10.

**MANSFIELD B.C.** (a) 7 bungalows, Bright Square, Bull Farm Housing Estate. (b) Borough Engineer, Carr Bank. (c) 2gns. (e) March 8.

**MELTON MOWBRAY U.C.** (a) Construction of a reinforced concrete chamber and above it a brick-built recorder house at refuse disposal works. (b) Messrs. W. H. Radford and Son, Albion Chambers, King Street, Nottingham. (c) 2gns. (e) March 15.

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**MORLEY B.C.** (a) (1) 12 bungalows, Garden House Lane Estate Extension, Tingley; (2) brick boundary wall and gates, Gildersome, Gildersome. (b) Housing Director, National Provincial Bank Chambers, Queen Street. (c) 2gns. (e) March 12.

**NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME B.C.** (a) County Primary School for 280 pupils, Crackley Bank, Newcastle, Staffs. (b) Borough Engineer, Lancaster Building, Newcastle, Staffs. (c) 3gns. (d) Feb. 19. (e) March 15.

**NORFOLK C.C.** (a) (1) Melton Constable Secondary Modern School laboratory in prefabricated construction and (2) branch library at St. William's Way, Thorpe St. Andrew. (b) Chief Education Officer, Education Offices, Stracey Road, Norwich. (d) Feb. 24.

**NORTH RIDING C.C.** (a) New secondary modern school at Eastfield, Scarborough. (b) Messrs. Gollins, Melvin, Ward and Partners, 15, Manchester Square, London, W.1. (c) March 11.

**ORRELL U.C.** (a) 31 houses, Kitt Green Estate. (b) Council's Surveyor, Council Offices, Orrell Post, near Wigan. (c) 2gns. cheque payable to Council. (e) Feb. 26.

**OXFORDSHIRE C.C.** (a) Secondary modern school for girls, Easington, Banbury, with Hills "Presweld" steel frame, etc. (b) County Architect, Park End Street Offices, Oxford. (d) Feb. 20.

**PETERLEE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.** (a) 5 shops and flats at Chapel Hill, Peterlee. (b) General Manager, Shotton Hall, Castle Eden, Co. Durham. (c) 2gns. (d) Feb. 22.

**ROTHWELL U.C.** (a) 10 houses, Wood Lane site, Rothwell, near Leeds. (b) Messrs. R. A. Easdale and Son, County Chambers, Bradley Street, Castleford. (c) 2gns. (e) March 6.

**RUGBY B.C.** (a) (Group 1) 24 dwellings; (2) 26 dwellings; (3) 36 dwellings; (4) 30 dwellings; (5) 64 dwellings; Section 1 of Abbotts Farm Estate. (b) Borough Surveyor, Burford House, Church Walk. (c) 5gns. (e) March 5.

**SCOTLAND—HADDINGTON B.C.** (a) 38 houses in 15 blocks, Development No. 3 Roodlands site. (All or separate trades). (b) Town Clerk, Haddington.

**SHEPshed U.C.** (a) 6 flats and 2 maisonnettes in a 3-storey block. (b) Messrs. McCarthy, Collings and Co., 187, Forest Road, Coalville, Leics. (c) 2gns. (e) March 9.

**SOUTHAMPTON B.C.** (a) Repairs and external redecoration at St. John's School, French Street. (b) Borough Architect, Civic Centre. (d) Feb. 20. (e) March 10.

**SOUTHEND B.C.** (a) First instalment of factory buildings at the Municipal Airport, Rochford. (b) Borough Architect, Municipal Buildings. (c) £2. (e) March 8.

**STOURBRIDGE B.C.** (a) 146 dwellings, Pedmore Fields Estate; and a pair of shops, Wollaston Farm Estate, with 2 flats above. (b) Borough Engineer, Council House. (c) 3gns. (e) March 19.



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**STEEPLEJACKS**

**STROUD R.C.** (a) 13 dwellings, Middle Yard, Kings Stanley, near Stroud. (b) Council's Clerk, Council Offices, John Street. (c) 2gns.

**TADCASTER R.C.** (a) 12 houses and external works, Bishopthorpe. (b) Messrs. Anthony Steel and Owen, 7, Greek Street, Leeds, 1. (c) 2gns. (e) Feb. 26.

**TUNBRIDGE WELLS B.C.** (a) 30 houses, Sherwood Estate. (b) Borough Surveyor, Town Hall. (c) 2gns.

**PLACED**

Notes on contracts placed state locality and authority in bold type with (1) type of work, (2) site, (3) name of contractor and address, (4) amount of tender or estimate. † denotes that work may not start pending final acceptance, or obtaining of licence, or modification of tenders, etc.

**BRIGHTON CORPORATION.** (1) 204 flats, 35 houses, etc. (2) Craven Vale Estate. (3) James Miller and Partners, Ltd., Lewes Road, Brighton, 7, and Suffolk Street, London, S.W.1. (4) £360,000.

**BANSTEAD JOINT COMMITTEE.** (1) 150 flats. (2) Banstead, Surrey. (3) Joseph Cartwright, Ltd., 9, Streatham High Road, London, S.W.16. (4) £241,068.

**WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL.** (1) Contract 2 of housing. (2) Churchill Gardens. (3) M. J. Gleeson (Contractors), Ltd., North Cheam, Surrey. (4) £622,641.

**WELLINGBOROUGH U.D.C.** (1) Shops, flats, maisonnettes. (2) Croyland Hall Farm. (3) Drabble Construction, Ltd., Bank Chambers, Rushden. (4) £107,908.

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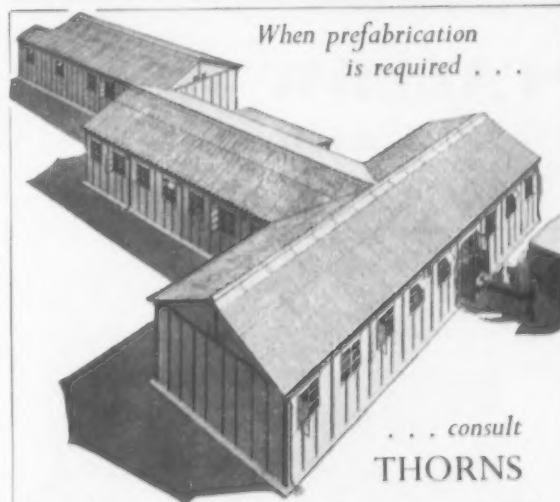
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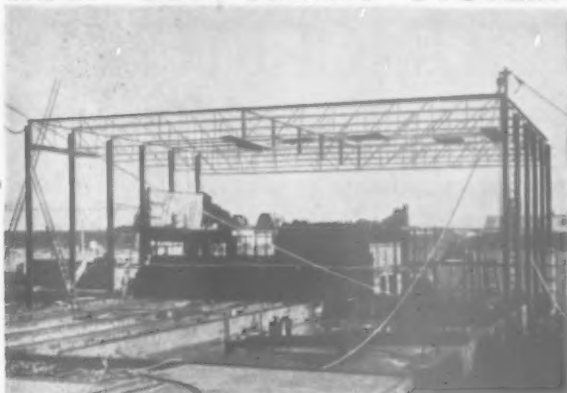


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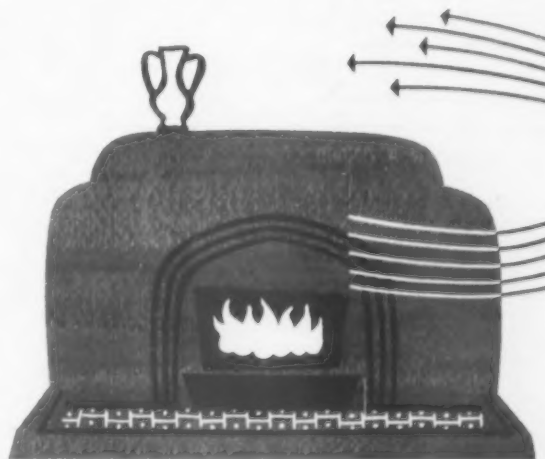
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# ANNOUNCEMENTS • CONTRACTS • TENDERS

Close for press 1st post Monday for following Thursday Issue

## APPOINTMENTS

The engagement of persons answering these advertisements must be made through the local office of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, etc., if the applicant is a man aged 18-64 or a woman aged 18-59 inclusive, unless he or she or the employer is exempted from the provisions of The Notification of Vacancies Order 1952.

### CITY OF BIRMINGHAM.

#### CITY ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following new appointments:—

- (a) QUANTITY SURVEYOR. Grade A.P.T. IX (£815-£935 p.a.).
- (b) QUANTITY SURVEYOR. Grade A.P.T. VIII (£760-£835 p.a.).
- (c) ASSISTANT QUANTITY SURVEYOR. Grade A.P.T. V (£595-£645 p.a.).
- (d) QUANTITY SURVEYOR'S ASSISTANT. Grade A.P.T. IV (£555-£600 p.a.).

For appointments:—

(a), (b), (c). Applicants must hold the Associate Membership of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (Quantity Section) or equivalent qualification and, for (a) and (b), have had extensive experience in a Quantity Surveyor's Office.

(d). Applicants must hold the Intermediate Examination of the R.I.C.S. (Quantity Section) or equivalent qualification.

The posts are permanent, superannuable, subject to a medical examination and to one month's notice on either side.

Applications, endorsed with the heading of the post, stating age, qualifications and experience, together with the names of two persons to whom reference can be made, should reach the undersigned not later than the 6th March, 1954.

Canvassing disqualifies.

A. G. SHEPPARD FIDLER,  
City Architect.

Civic Centre, Birmingham, 1. [7676]

### BOROUGH OF COLCHESTER.

#### TEMPORARY ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the appointment of TEMPORARY ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT in the Borough Engineer's Department at a salary in accordance with A.P.T. Grades II-III, £495-£570 per annum (£520-£595 as from 1st April, 1954) according to qualifications and experience.

Applicants should have passed the Intermediate Examination of the R.I.B.A., or its equivalent, and be capable of preparing working drawings, site surveys and levels and preferably have had experience in connection with Local Authority Housing Schemes. The appointment will be subject to the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937, and the successful candidate will be required to pass a medical examination.

The appointment will be terminable by one month's notice on either side.

Applications stating age, qualifications and experience, accompanied by copies of not more than two recent testimonials, must reach the Borough Engineer, 1, West Stockwell Street, Colchester, not later than Monday, 1st March, 1954.

Canvassing will disqualify, and candidates must state whether they are related to any member or senior officer of the Council.

N. CATCHPOLE,  
Town Clerk.

Town Hall,  
Colchester.  
9th February, 1954. [7678]

## APPOINTMENTS—contd.

### PADDINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

BUILDING SURVEYING ASSISTANT, £520 x £15-£595. Practical knowledge of building construction, experienced surveying sites and buildings, repair and conversion of civic and residential properties, capable of preparing plans, specifications and estimates of costs and of supervision. Advanced stage of preparation for R.I.C.S. an advantage. Write Town Clerk (A.147), Paddington, W.2, age, qualifications, present and past appointments with dates and salaries, names of three referees by 8th March, 1954. [7684]

### CITY OF BIRMINGHAM.

#### CITY ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments:—

- (a) CHIEF ASSISTANT ARCHITECT—Grade A.P.T. IX (£815/£935 p.a.). A high standard in the planning and design of new schools is required.
- (b) ASSISTANT ARCHITECT—Grade A.P.T. VIII (£760/£835 p.a.). Applicants should possess extensive knowledge in the layout and design of municipal housing schemes.
- (c) ASSISTANT ARCHITECT—Grade A.P.T. VII (£710/£785 p.a.). Applicants must have had considerable experience in the design and erection of large buildings. Experience of school buildings preferable but not essential.

Applicants must hold the Associate Membership of the R.I.B.A., or equivalent qualification.

The posts are permanent, superannuable, subject to a medical examination and to one month's notice on either side.

Applications, endorsed with the heading of the post, stating age, present post and salary, qualifications and experience, together with the names of two persons to whom reference can be made, should reach the undersigned not later than March 6th, 1954.

Canvassing disqualifies.

A. G. SHEPPARD FIDLER,

Civic Centre, Birmingham, 1. [7683]

### BOROUGH OF OLDBURY.

#### QUANTITY SURVEYOR.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the appointment of QUANTITY SURVEYOR, Grade A.P.T. VIII in the Architects' Section of the Borough Surveyor's Department.

The Corporation's building programme comprises mixed development of houses, maisonettes and flats, shopping centres, development of the Central Clearance Areas for multi-storey flats and general building work for all Committees.

Candidates for this appointment should be Chartered Quantity Surveyors, possessing a thorough knowledge of building contract procedure and have administrative ability; be experienced in the preparation of estimates, preparing specifications and bills of quantities, valuation for interim certificates and settling final accounts for all types of Local Authority building contracts.

The appointment will be superannuable, subject to the National Conditions of Service and to the selected candidate passing a medical examination.

Applications, giving particulars of age, qualifications and experience, with the names of two referees, should be delivered to the undersigned not later than Monday, 1st March, 1954.

Housing accommodation will be available to married applicants if this is required.

KENNETH PEARCE,

Municipal Buildings,  
OLDBURY.  
6th February, 1954. [7667]

## APPOINTMENTS—contd.

### LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Applications are invited for the following appointments on the permanent staff:—

- (a) ASSISTANT ARCHITECT, Grade A.P.T.V (£620-£670 from 1.4.54).
- (b) ASSISTANT ARCHITECT, Grade A.P.T.VI (£695-£760 from 1.4.54).

Application forms, to be returned by Saturday, 6th March, obtainable from the County Architect, County Hall, Preston. [7669]

## CONTRACTS

### URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HAVERHILL.

#### BLOCK OF FLATS AND SHOPS, WITH GARAGES.

TENDERS are invited for the construction of a three-storey block, consisting of eight two-bedroom flats and two lock-up shops, together with outbuildings, and a range of seven garages, in Beech Grove, in the Parkway Housing Estate, Haverhill.

Bills of Quantities are in course of preparation and will be available, with drawings to show the scope of the work, on 12th February next. Tenders must be received by the undersigned by 12 noon on 1st March, 1954.

Contractors desirous of tendering should notify Mr. J. C. Myers, L.R.I.B.A., of High Street, Haverhill, and send a remittance for £3 3s as a deposit for the Bill of Quantities and drawings.

W. C. BLAKE,  
Clerk of the Council.

Council Offices,  
Haverhill.  
3rd February, 1954. [7685]

### THE HAVANT AND WATERLOO URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

#### invite Tenders for the ERECTION OF THIRTY-TWO HOUSES at their housing estate, Purbrook.

Conditions of Contract and Drawings may be inspected at the Offices of the Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices, 1, Park Road North, Havant, whence Bills of Quantities and a Form of Tender may be obtained, on payment of a deposit of £3 3s which will be returned on receipt of a bona-fide Tender and the return of all documents.

No Tender will be received except in a plain sealed envelope, which may bear the word "Tender" followed by the subject to which it relates, but shall not bear any name or mark indicating the sender, and must be delivered to the Clerk of the Council, Town Hall, Havant, not later than 12 noon on Monday, the 8th March, 1954.

The Council do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any Tender. [7671]

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### IMPERIAL ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT.

#### INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION OF 1950 FOR THE IMPERIAL PALACE AT ADDIS ABABA.

IT is desired that four unsuccessful Architects and Engineers who submitted plans for the above competition should communicate to the Imperial Ethiopian Embassy, 17, Princes Gate, London, S.W.7, their postal addresses so that their drawings may be returned to them. The following are the devices marked on drawings whose owners cannot be identified:—

- (1) Letter "E" in the centre of a shield drawn within a circle.
- (2) "XX" on a black ground.
- (3) "THE LION LIKES THE FLIGHT OF THE OWL."
- (4) "1874"; author Mr. Constant A. Leclerc. [7677]



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- Lot 5. Site 5,700ft sup.
- Lot 6. Site 7,000ft sup.

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[7668]

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## ARCHITECTURAL APPOINTMENTS VACANT

The engagement of persons answering these advertisements must be made through the local office of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, etc., if the applicant is a man aged 18-64 or a woman aged 18-59 inclusive, unless he or she or the employer is exempted from the provisions of The Notification of Vacancies Order 1952.

OVERSEAS VACANCIES now exist in the following offices. Only keen experienced men of proven ability should apply.

**SALISBURY**, two unqualified architectural assistants, several years' experience, salary £720 p.a., plus bonus, fare out—Reference OSS 19/2.

**KITWE**, senior assistant architect, 30-40, some administrative experience, salary £960 p.a., passage out—Reference OSS 37/8.

**NAIROBI**, three architectural assistants, experienced, salary approx. £660, bonus, pension and leave scheme, passage out—Reference OSS 17/7.

Write for further information, quoting appropriate reference number to OVERSEAS TECHNICAL SERVICE, 5, Welton Crescent, Harrow. [7673]

**OPPORTUNITY** established London office for Architect experienced in controlling staff and supervising large contracts. Salary according to experience.—Box 3323. [7652]

**ARCHITECTURAL** Assistant with office experience required. Salary £350-£450.—Apply, stating age, training and experience, to Edwin H. Earp & Badger, L./A.R.I.B.A., Scholars Lane, Stratford-on-Avon. [7655]

**UNIVERSITY** Department requires architectural assistant, wide variety of interesting work and attractive prospects.—Applicants should have had at least seven years' office experience, sound knowledge of construction and be accurate draughtsmen.—Write, stating age, details of training and experience, to Box 3462. [7670]

**UNIVERSITY** of Cambridge Department of Estate Management requires the services of experienced architectural assistant. Must have passed R.I.B.A. Final Examination and had minimum of ten years' practical experience. Salary according to age and experience. Applications with copies of three testimonials to Director, 74, Trumpington Street Cambridge, not later than Saturday, February 27, 1954. [7681]

## SITUATIONS VACANT

The engagement of persons answering these advertisements must be made through the local office of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, etc., if the applicant is a man aged 18-64 or a woman aged 18-59 inclusive, unless he or she or the employer is exempted from the provisions of The Notification of Vacancies Order 1952.

**RHODESIAN** firm of Architects and Surveyors require qualified Quantity Surveyor to work under A.R.I.C.S. Partner at Kitwe.—Further particulars from Overseas Technical Service, 5, Welton Crescent, Harrow. [7672]

**THE BRITISH OXYGEN COMPANY, Ltd.**, have a vacancy for a Senior Female Tracer; applicants should have at least six years' practical experience.—Please reply giving full details of age, qualifications and experience to Dept. A. 0706, British Oxygen Co., Ltd., Bridgewater House, Cleveland Row, St. James's, London, S.W.1. [7679]

**EXPERIENCED** Estimator/Surveyor wanted by firm of London builders of medium size. All types of work undertaken, applicant must be able to handle inquiries from initial stage to final account. The position has possibilities of a financial interest in the Company and is pensionable after normal qualifying period.—Write, giving age, full details of experience and salary required, to Box 3463. [7675]

**TECHNICAL** Representative, age 30-40, with building trade experience, required by old-established and well-known manufacturing company to call on London Architects. An ability to read plans and take off quantities is essential; the successful applicant will be a well-educated man of good appearance and sound background and will probably have existing connections with the architectural profession or building industry.—Write giving full details of education, business experience and present remuneration, to Box 3522. [7682]

## WORK REQUIRED

**POINTING** work, old or new, and stone cleaning, wanted, large or small contracts. Est. over 27 years.—A. Kirby & Sons, 21, Mashiters Hill, Romford, Essex. Tel. Romford 7642. [7577]

**JOINERY** to specification, hardwood or softwood, banks, schools and office, joinery purpose made, garage doors in oak.—Write for estimate enclosing fullest details to A. W. Blake, c/o Messrs. D. Lengar, Mayplace Road East, Bexleyheath, Kent. [7690]

**PORTLAND** signs, gilding, wall signs, heraldic grists, bronze plates, glass writing, signwriters to the trade.—78, Osnauburgh St., London, N.W.1. Tel. Euston 5722. [7666]

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**BEDFORD** coach, 1939, good order throughout, owner going abroad; £175 o.n.o.—D. Hammond, Ploughshare, Beeston, King's Lynn, Norfolk. Litcham 233. [7631]

**ALL** Mouldings, Plain and Embossed, and Embossed ornaments, Numerous designs.—Davey's Moulding Mills, Ltd., 60, Pownall Rd., Dalston, E.8. [10086]

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**CHASESIDE** mechanical shovels, Major type, by day, week or contract, with drivers; tipping lorries supplied if required with shovels.—Henry Froud, Ltd., Primrose Wharf, Tunnel Ave., Greenwich, S.E.10. Tel. Greenwich 0072-3. [10138]

## WANTED

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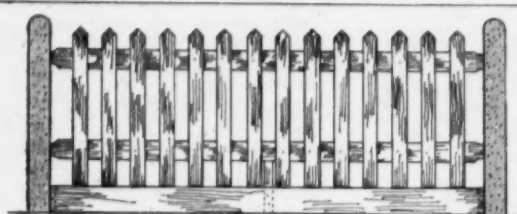
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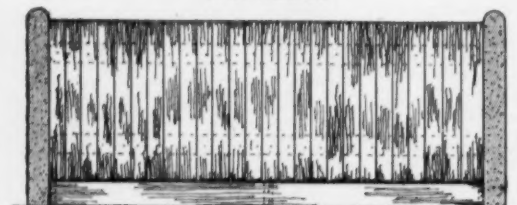
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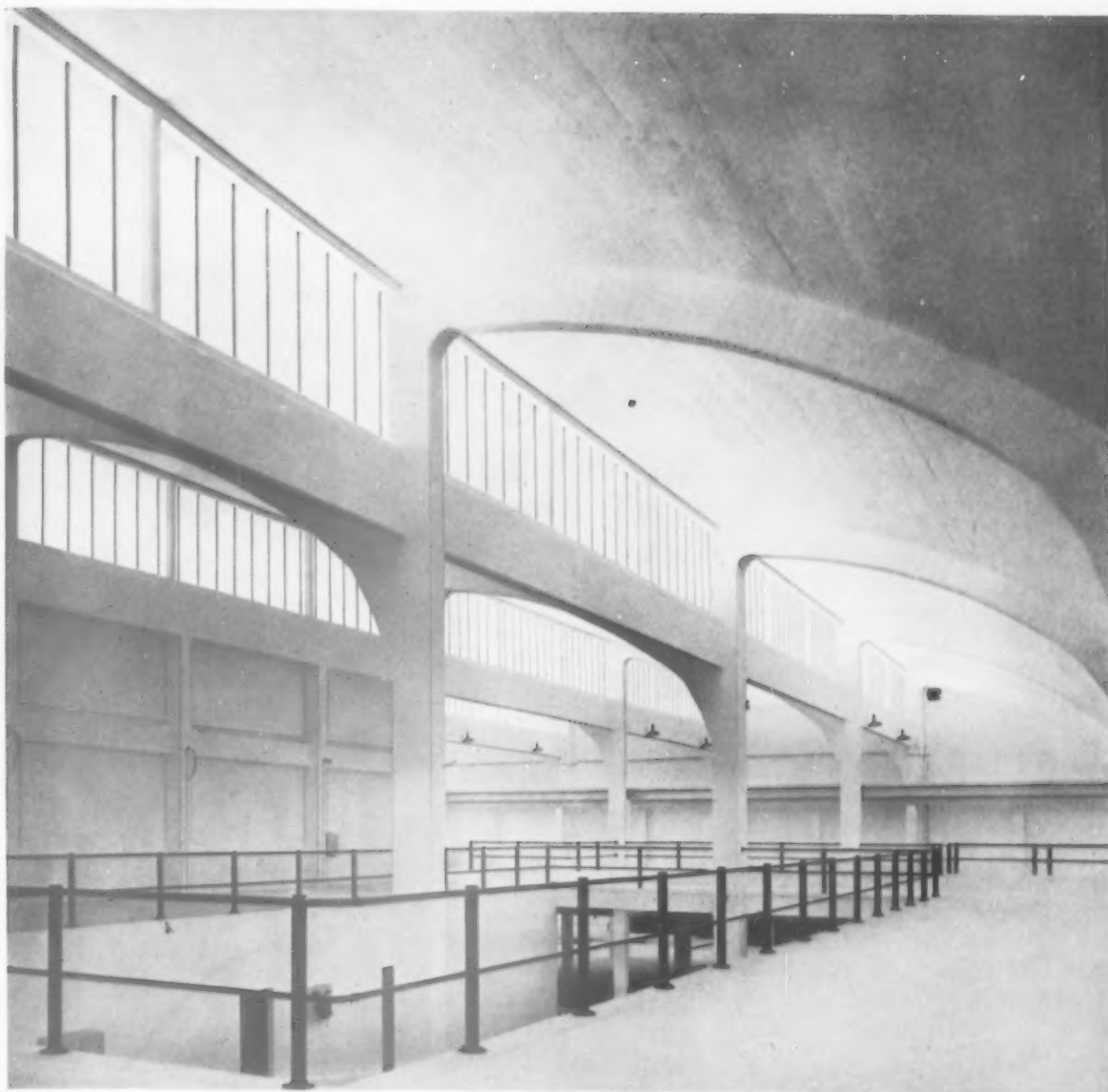
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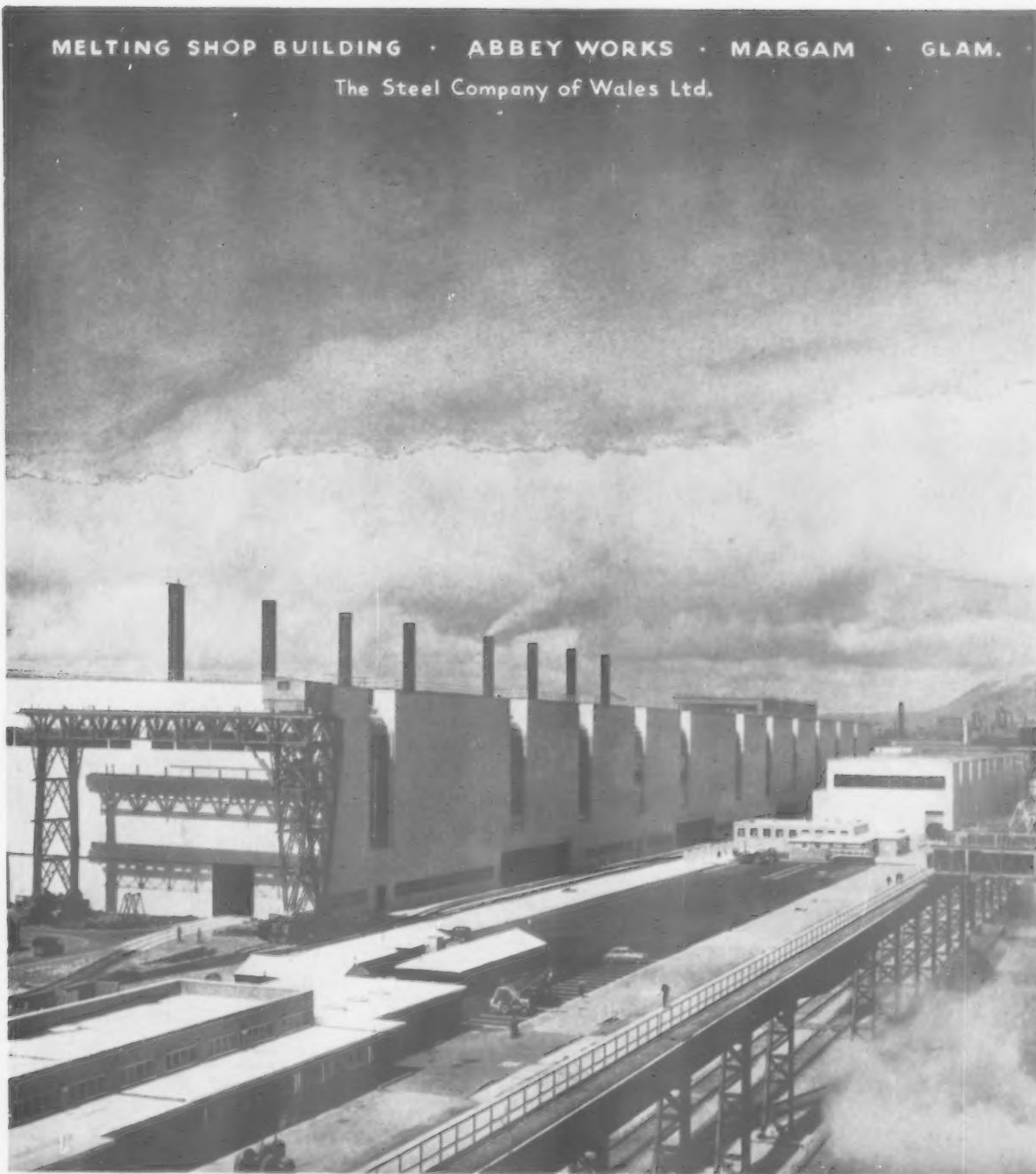


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